

# THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 17.

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## THE LIMITS OF PRESS CRITICISM.

THE case of *Campbell against Spottiswoode*, concluded last Saturday in the Court of Queen's Bench, is peculiarly interesting and important. Naturally enough, even had the case presented no peculiar features of law, people would have been interested in it, in the same way that the spectators of a pugilistic encounter are interested when they form a ring round two well-known combatants. The *Saturday Review*, appearing in the defendant in this case, is a periodical ably representing much of the highest culture in Britain; but it has, nevertheless, some enemies. The Rev. Dr. Campbell is a Scottish Presbyterian minister, long resident in London, and now engaged, not in the duties of the pulpit, but in those of editor and part-proprietor of a religious newspaper, called *The British Standard and Ensign*. His antecedents are not of the kind to have been much heard of in the world of the *Saturday Reviewers*; he has, nevertheless, been a stirring and combative man in his day, and he has some friends. These were the pugilists. They were sure to attract a good ring. But the case is important on more general grounds. Very important points of law have been discussed, and, for the present, decided in it. In the last trial, on Saturday, more particularly, every credit is due to Mr. Bovill, the counsel for the defendant, for the pertinacity with which he urged all that was possibly reserved from the preceding trial in favour of his client; while, on the other hand, we have rarely seen judgments better worth reading, whether for their consequences or for the exactitude of their expression, than those in which the four judges—and especially the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and Mr. Justice Blackburn—delivered their unanimous opinion.

Last summer Dr. Campbell was publishing in his paper a series of Letters on Missions to China. Along with these Letters there appeared announcements and appeals to the religious public, calling upon "Christians of zeal and means" to aid the cause of Chinese

missions by assisting in the distribution of such arguments as were contained in the Letters. This, they were told, they could do by subscribing to the "free circulation-list" of Dr. Campbell's paper, then already amounting to 20,000 copies. Of these 20,000, they were told, as many as 5000 were subscribed for by the Hon. Charlotte Margaretta Thompson of Prior Park, Bath—while 1000 were subscribed for by the Earl of Gainsborough, 1000 by the Earl of Shaftesbury, 1000 by the Hon. Arthur Kinnaid, 1000 by "the Rev. Dr. — and friends," and smaller quantities by various other persons designated either by initials or by descriptions. Letters from some of these persons, approving of the Chinese missions and of Dr. Campbell's mode of supporting them, were printed in the columns of the paper. Among the subscribers advertised was one calling himself "An Old Soldier." A letter from another subscriber contained these words: "Ah! would we have our great Protestant principles, privileges, and blessings more widely propagated and more securely perpetuated, then let us to a man willingly, liberally, and prayerfully, set up an *Ensign* for the nations. Put me down for 500 copies." It was in last summer, we repeat, that these announcements were appearing in Dr. Campbell's paper, and that Dr. Campbell was publishing the Letters on Missions to China to which they referred.

Here was certainly, as Lord Chief Justice Cockburn said, something that had an "odd" look. A man was rousing the religious world to a greater interest in the cause of the Christianization of the vast empire of some 300 millions of Mongolian human beings consolidated in the extreme east of Asia; and the immediate practical shape which his advice took was an appeal to all British Christians of means to subscribe for copies of his own newspaper, as the expositor of that great cause. To the ordinary secular mind, the thing could not but have an "odd" look, as the Lord Chief Justice said—a "fishy" look, as he might have said, had judicial rhetoric permitted the use of such an expression.

Newspapers are on the look-out for such things; it is part of their duty and their business. But every newspaper has its own peculiar prey—has its own streams and ponds, little visited by others, where it seeks for its fish. The doings of the Low-Church, or Evangelical, or Shaftesburyian world, with the Nonconformist adjuncts of that world, are a favourite fishing-ground of the *Saturday Review*. Every week it pays these waters a visit. "*Itaque, patres, censeo Carthaginem esse delendam*" was the wind-up of all Cato's speeches, whatever was the subject discussed; "*Itaque, adolescentes, censeo Shaftesburyismum esse delendum*" is the variation of the phrase by this keen and able representative of the educated intelligence of young England. That a man should be in a fluster about China in any fashion whatever would be to it a sufficient reason for keeping an eye on that man; but to be in a fluster about China, with such accompaniments—! In short, the *Saturday Review* was down upon Dr. Campbell. On the 14th of June last it had an article on him and his plan of promoting Chinese missions. "To spread the knowledge of the Gospel in China," it said, "would be a good and an excellent thing, and worthy of all praise and encouragement; but to make such a work a mere pretext for puffing an obscure newspaper into circulation is a most scandalous and flagitious act, and it is this act, we fear, we must charge against Dr. Campbell." There were hints, also, that the published names of subscribers to Dr. Campbell's paper might be fictitious, and intended merely as decoys; that the Mr. Thompson often referred to by Dr. Campbell—the husband of the Hon. Charlotte Margaretta Thompson of Bath—might be a splendid imagination, like Mrs. Gamp's "Mrs. Harris;" that the "Old Soldier" might be some one else; and that the published letters from correspon-

dents, approving of the subscription-scheme, all bore the mark of one hand. The article went on to deplore the ignorant "credulity manifested among a class of the community entitled, on many grounds, to respect," and added that, in the meantime, there could be no doubt that Dr. Campbell was "making a very good thing, indeed, of the spiritual wants of the Chinese." Altogether, it will be seen, though the *Saturday Review* was down upon Dr. Campbell, it was more guarded in its language with respect to the portion of the community in which Dr. Campbell finds his constituency than it very often is.

Dr. Campbell is evidently a man with something of the "*Nemo me impune lacesset*" in him. He would not submit to the imputation of being an "impostor," or "guilty of scandalous and flagitious conduct." He brought his action against the printer of the *Saturday Review*. On the first trial he distinctly, and in the most effective manner, deprived his adversary of what would have been his chief advantage, by actually producing in court, as witnesses, the subscribers and correspondents hinted at as fictitious—Mr. Thompson of Bath, the Old Soldier, and all. Not a doubt could be left that, in the matter of the subscription-lists and letters from correspondents, he had not been acting fraudulently, but in strict good faith with the public. On the ground, therefore, that the article in the *Saturday Review* had insinuated a fraud in this matter, of which the plaintiff had effectually cleared himself, and on the farther ground that, though a newspaper critic might justly and legally be very severe on such an exhibition as Dr. Campbell's peculiar plan for promoting missions in China, and might "denounce the whole scheme as pernicious and delusive," yet, in attributing the scheme to base and sordid motives, the writer in the *Saturday Review* had gone beyond the legal liberty of the press, the Lord Chief Justice summed up, on the whole, in favour of the plaintiff. Following his direction, the jury found for the plaintiff—awarding, however, only £50 as damages.

Even this moderate decision for the plaintiff was left subject to a reserve, arising partly out of what had been urged by the defendant's counsel, but chiefly out of the judge's wish that a point of law, respecting which he had no doubt himself, should remain open for further argument, if the defendant chose. There was no personal malice, it was admitted, on the part of the writer in the *Saturday Review* against Dr. Campbell; he had written purely in his character as a journalist, entitled to comment on public men and public matters. In the comments he had made he had, undoubtedly, in the opinion of the judge, made insinuations which, especially when the only one of them admitting of distinct disproof had been met and disproved, would, in ordinary circumstances, amount to libel, and be punishable as such. But this question might be raised: "Although the imputations had been met, and, as far as possible, disproved, might not the critic, at the time of writing, and forming his opinion from the writings on which he was commenting, have believed the imputations to be well-founded; and would such a conscientious belief on his part—notwithstanding that it had turned out wrong—exculpate him in the eye of the law?" On this point the Lord Chief Justice had no doubt himself. He was clear that such a belief, however honest on the part of the critic, would be no legal justification. But, as the point was important, and had not been specially settled in previous judgments on Libel, he intimated that, should the verdict of the jury allow him, he would reserve leave for the defendant to claim the verdict by reason of that point. The jury, while finding for the plaintiff, did find, nevertheless, this matter of fact—that the writer in the *Saturday Review* "believed his imputations to be well-founded;" and on this matter of fact, found in his favour, the defendant came again into Court last Saturday to claim the verdict.

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The whole argument last Saturday, and the speeches of the judges, giving their unanimous decision still against the defendant (as the Chief Justice had foreseen), were well worth the space of five columns assigned to them in the newspaper-reports. Mr. Bovill fought hard for the defendant, and moved this and that; but the stress of the argument was confined to the point reserved. It was unanimously ruled by the judges that the honest belief of a public writer that imputations are well-founded does not justify him from the consequences of libel in uttering them, should he not be able to make them good. The Lord Chief Justice's language on this matter is the most precise. "You have no right," he said, "to impute to a man whose conduct you assail, and who may be fairly open to your attacks, base, sordid, and dishonest motives, unless there is so much ground for the imputation that a jury shall think not only that you had an honest belief in the truth of your statements, but that your belief is not without foundation." The only ambiguity that can connect itself with these words will arise from the use of the word *is* in the present tense. If a jury were to think that the belief of a writer in an imputation made, though without foundation after the evidence on the trial, yet *was* not without foundation at the time it was made—that kind of foundation, to wit, which might consist in a reasonable inference from the materials before him—would that justify the writer? This point, pressed by Mr. Bovill in the course of his argument—the effect of which would be that the jury would have to transport themselves back in imagination to the moment when the critic wrote, and judge of the "reasonableness of his inference" from the materials then before him, by considering whether it was one they would themselves have made—does not seem to have been articulately discussed, although the Chief Justice's language seems to settle it by exclusion from what any Court can consider. This being assumed, the only other point was that of "privilege." Has the public press any "privilege" making an imputation, honestly believed, to be legal in its case which would elsewhere be illegal? All the judges were unanimous in ruling, on this point, that the press had no such peculiar "privilege"—no privilege at all, Mr. Bovill said, must then be the construction. Mr. Justice Blackburn, however, addressed himself most clearly to this point. "Privilege," he said, "means when a person stands in such a relation to the circumstances that he is excused for saying or publishing what would be in a stranger libellous and actionable." The Houses of Parliament have such a privilege. Masters and mistresses, in giving the characters of servants, have such a privilege. If they injure character maliciously, a servant may have an action; if they honestly convey an injurious impression, even should it not turn out to be well-founded, it is for the interests of society that they should be "privileged" in doing so. But the Law does not recognise any such privilege—any such distinction from other individual citizens—in writers for the public press.

On the whole, the decision ought, we think, to give satisfaction. It is such, we think, as, without curtailing the just exercise of criticism by the press on public men and public measures, is calculated to infuse into our public writing a proper spirit of thoughtfulness, of recollection of responsibility, of consideration for the honest differences from our own standard of procedure that there may be even among wrongheaded and attack-deserving men—to help the important idea that the journalist does his duty best when he assumes no rights other than belong to him as a free and responsible citizen, but speaks according to the rules and the charities of general manliness. The *Saturday Review* has, in reality, suffered this very small punishment for having, in one respect, too sure and narrow a philosophy of human nature. Its theories and its experience did not enable it to believe that a man doing such things as Dr. Campbell was doing, and in such a loud and reprehensible

style, might yet be far above the fraud of fictitious subscription-lists and fictitious correspondences to swell them. And perhaps the most pleasant thing in the trial was that this Christian minister, with all his faults of method and taste, was able to come into court in a state of honest indignation, and, by actually producing his "Mr. Thompson," his "Old Soldier," and his other supposedly mythical subscribers and correspondents, clear himself, and the co-religionists who might have suffered with him, from the only charge that could be specifically met. In these days, we say—when the morality of some portion of our public press itself is not all that it should be in the matter of fictitious correspondences—it is well that a man of standing in any section of the religious world should have been able to do this.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BISHOP BLOMFIELD.

*A Memoir of Charles James Blomfield, D.D., Bishop of London. With Selections from his Correspondence. Edited by his Son, Alfred Blomfield, M.A. Two Vols. (Murray.)*

"AN enemy," says Mr. Blomfield in this sensible and interesting memoir of his father, "once called the Bishop of London an ecclesiastical Peel; and he would probably have accepted as a compliment this intended reproach." We have no doubt of it; and both the unintended compliment which the Bishop would have appreciated, and the intended sneer to which he would have been insensible, were really warranted by elements deeply rooted in the character of the man. And, while the description itself was in most respects a characteristic one, the Bishop's presumptive insensibility to the satire which it implied was still more characteristic. He had a deep and just reverence for the fine qualities of the great parliamentary conservative, and no suspicion, however dim, that quite other qualities are, if unfortunately very far from essential, at least exceedingly desirable in the leading representatives of a body that proposes to discern and disseminate absolute divine truth among men. In some personal qualities, indeed, Bishop Blomfield may not have shared Sir Robert Peel's exceedingly secular talents and genius. He was less pompous, and less constitutionally cautious, less broadly sagacious and keen to discern the signs of the times, though not less flexible when he had discerned them. But, though his powers were not so well accommodated for a mere political career, there is scarcely one respect in which he approaches nearer to the true ideal of a Divine than Sir Robert Peel. Able, pliant, dignified, and decorous, steering with sufficient address amidst the rocks and eddies of the confined sea of Anglican controversy, speaking and thinking habitually from an assumed platform of secondary ecclesiastical formulæ without one overruling first-hand conviction, Bishop Blomfield's views as a theologian are exactly of that kind which a man gets by habitually acting upon a body of intellectual rules and discriminating distinctions, into the grounds of which he has never inquired, because he has never for a moment questioned them. There is not a trace throughout Bishop Blomfield's life of even the wish to penetrate beneath the uppermost stratum of the received Anglican divinity. A statesman who holds only on the temporary we may excuse, and even at times admire; but a divine who does so, who never seems to wish even for a glimpse of the eternal rock beneath the shifting soil of human opinion, who never once appears to need a deeper foundation than that shelving deposit of light, friable divinity, through a few not very consistent centuries, which constitutes the groundwork of our modern Church principles, is rather a painful anomaly. Bishop Blomfield strikes us as a kind of skilful theological diplomatist, believing that he really represents Him who is "the same yesterday, to-day, and forever," but yet producing from his portfolio arguments which would have

been meaningless yesterday and will be obsolete to-morrow. He comes forward to the world in the name of Him "in whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning," with a flexibility of purpose and pliancy of intellect which would become the representative of a third-rate European state. Bishop Blomfield probably never knew what it was to crave a direct apprehension of everlasting truths.

Such at least is the impression made upon us, in spite of all his good and even great qualities, by the late Bishop of London. A smoother career no man of eminence ever had who, with a strong character of his own, was called to govern in times of conflict. He used to say as a child that he intended to be a bishop, and a bishop he was certainly fitted to become, both by his excellences and defects. Without even a vestige of that peculiar temperament which strains passionately after Truth, without speculative ardour, without imaginative power, Dr. Blomfield possessed every practical quality which a mere administrator of the Church should boast—soundness of practical judgment, alacrity of purpose, vigilance of eye, clearness of thought and fluency of speech, considerable benevolence, great ambition, an inborn respect for formula, and no meditateness of disposition. These were just the qualities which best fitted an ecclesiastical leader for ascendancy at the time when the late Bishop of London rose to eminence; and they enabled him to glide along the stream of ecclesiastical preferment with as much ease as dignity. Not that, when placed in positions of responsibility, he ever failed in arduous effort. Quite the reverse. We mean only that he rose in the Church not only by being essentially competent to fill posts of high trust, but also by being essentially free from any of those finer scruples which would have hampered his way to them; not merely by great qualifications for rule, but also by fair qualifications for climbing. He said, no doubt with great truth, at the climax of his career, that he had never asked for any one of the dignities which he got; but it is also true that he never failed to accept any which was offered by his powerful patrons, even when a man who had been more impressed with his Christian responsibilities, and less filled with ecclesiastical ambition, undoubtedly might have done so. For example, though a generous man, and a very liberal-handed bishop, he never seems either to have felt or affected in his earlier life any scruples about holding ecclesiastical sinecures, which undoubtedly paved his way to greater honours. His first living, Quarrington, he held without residence, on the ground that there was no parsonage-house in the benefice. When he accepted the rich living of Bishopsgate in London he retained also the valuable see of Chesterford, which he had last held; and, when promoted to the (comparatively poor) Bishopric of Chester, he retained, *in commendam*, the lucrative Bishopsgate living. In short, though very generous with his wealth, he had not the slightest scruple in enjoying pluralities, even while he recognised and deplored the poverty of a large section of the clergy. He had been, as we see, a non-resident incumbent; he was, at least till enthroned in the rich see of London, a habitual pluralist; and yet when, after his consecration as Bishop of Chester, some one remarked that a portrait just painted of him represented him "with a decided frown," he replied with a rather austerer virtue in the ruler than might have been expected from the rector, "Yes; that portrait ought to have been dedicated without permission to the non-resident clergy of the diocese of Chester." He was an honest, liberal, clear-sighted, and able man of the world, with sufficient tincture of formulated piety to make a good ruler in the Church; but, as for any of the impulses which have impelled men "to leave all and follow Christ," he probably understood no more of them than he did of that passionate pursuit of truth of which we have spoken. He loved power

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and used it well; he loved order, and introduced it wherever he went; he loved learning, and turned it to good account; he loved decorum both of the outward and inward man, but assuredly he was never consumed by any of the higher religious passions, and always presented the dignified spectacle of a clever statesman transmuted by a superficially modified education into an ecclesiastic of eloquence and tact, who understood the civilizing duties of a rich national establishment, and the humanizing power of a seemly religion, much better than he understood that "Word of God which is sharp and powerful as any two-edged sword to the dividing asunder of soul and flesh." Bishop Blomfield was one of those men whose powers are eminently useful to the Church, but who make one wonder more than ever how the Christian Church rooted itself in the earth. Christianity, bleeding and in rags, is not quite inconsistent with the notion of some of our greater and even titled divines. We can imagine Bishop Butler painfully pondering its announcements, and slowly fixing upon it the grave eager eye of his insatiable spiritual nature till he would have thrown down everything else to press either the thorns or the cross to his heart; we can conceive Bishop Berkeley with swifter and happier enthusiasm welcoming the same sacrifice; but we cannot conceive that Bishop Blomfield would ever have been one of these. His virtues, though great, are all of the salutary civil class. He is, as his son calls him, *vir pietate gravis*, whose piety increases his social influence, and is thought of chiefly in that light; but it is much easier to think of him without his piety than without his social influence. He would assuredly have been shocked by the dreaminess and enthusiasm of the primitive Christianity, would have thought St. Paul flighty, and St. John exalted, and the whole proceedings of the early Church a very regrettable inroad on the natural influence of wealth and learning.

This may seem a harsh judgment; but we do not know that it is so, and it is certainly consistent with many great administrative qualities—with courage, and firmness, and impartiality; with rare industry and large benevolence; with simplicity of mind, and singular faithfulness to such convictions as forced themselves upon his clear eye.

Bishop Blomfield, though in some respects a more bigoted, seems to us to have become a higher kind of man in his later than in his early years. He withdrew, it is true, his sympathy from the Roman Catholics sometime before he became a Bishop in 1823; and in other respects seems to have become more of a martinet in ecclesiastical discipline, and more of an alarmist about false doctrine; but this was only due to the natural crystallizing of his convictions into an attitude which they seldom varied, and, in point of practical energy and self-denial, the great opportunities which his London episcopacy held out certainly developed in him far higher qualities than the not very pleasing notices of his earlier days would have given us any conception of. As a Bishop, it cannot be doubted that he ruled on the whole both splendidly and well, except in relation to controverted points of discipline and doctrine. His scheme for adding at once fifty churches to the Metropolis, and his wonderful success, showed faith as well as a certain grandeur of conception; his conduct on the Poor Law Board and the Ecclesiastical Commission showed moral courage as well as administrative sagacity; and his final resignation of his see when disabled by illness showed a real spirit of disinterestedness which would scarcely have marked his earlier career. But the manliness and ability with which he usually met opposition, and overcame the obstacles in his path, were exchanged for a curious imbecility in dealing with speculative or even rubrical questions. His comical difficulties with Mr. Bennett, the Puseyite clergyman of St. Barnabas', will not soon cease to be remembered, nor the hesitating spirit of puzzled compromise which they

betrayed. That decision of his, if our memory does not betray us—only very briefly referred to in this memoir—that there was no objection to candles on the altar, so long as they were not lighted, will always remind us of Cowper's poetical judgment in the case of *Nose v. Eyes* for the legal right in the spectacles—that "whenever the nose put the spectacles on, by daylight or candle-light, eyes should be shut." And the whole series of the Bishop's difficulties with regard to the ritual party certainly raise a smile at the intrinsic weakness of his intellectual position. During the debate on the great Reform Bill the Duke of Newcastle once, very justly we think, reproached the Bishops with a temporizing policy, and charged the Bishop of London especially with having recently "collated himself to the office of High Priest in the Temple of Expediency." The Bishop, with characteristic candour, did not repel the accusation, but replied that he held with Paley that there were cases in which expediency might be our guide. And, indeed, with him, as with Sir Robert Peel, they did not appear to have been by any means very rare. He first encouraged and then discouraged the rubrical party; avowed that he was mainly "anxious to keep things quiet as far as possible;" remitted the prayer for the Church militant almost as soon as he had recommended it—as if to show that he, at least, did not represent the Church in that aspect; softened down his recommendations about the offertory, by saying he had no wish to recommend "the immediate adoption of a weekly offertory;" and altogether presented a painful picture of a Bishop in difficulties.

But, though Bishop Blomfield was destined to flounder most helplessly in the Puseyite difficulties, the essentially practical nature of his understanding and almost striking incapacity for apprehending primary truths are shown most clearly in the few letters in which he tries to soften or interpret some questionable point of doctrine; letters in which he never seems to propose even to his own mind the question—what is true?—but only this other and easier question—how can we look at the received creed so as to avoid the discovery of a difficulty? The clergyman who consulted him about the damnable part of the Athanasian creed must have been easily comforted if he fell in with the Bishop's expedient for accepting the words and robbing them of their sting. Yet this is one of the highest of the purely intellectual of the Bishop's efforts. It is a scheme for interpreting the creed and the formulæ of the Church which bear on it at least as good as any of his best notes on *Æschylus*, and has about the same amount of relevance to absolute Truth. "What can an English bishop say appropriately on this point?" was a consideration with which his mind was so deeply imbued that for him the question of true or false was the question as to the possibility of acclimatization in an Anglican episcopal soil. What he found grow luxuriantly there was absolute truth; what he did not find there, but yet seemed capable of transplantation thither, was not false; what absolutely needed a different soil was falsehood. Such was Bishop Blomfield; a man of dignity, generosity, and arduous mind—able, as well as anxious, to govern well where he clearly knew what to do, but a man who thought of Revelation as a divine scheme of *policy*, of which the best edition has been published by the Anglican Church. His life will be read with great interest, as it is thoughtfully and simply written by his son. But thoughtful men will be surprised at the capacity of an intellect which never seems to be used for an intellectual end; never, except to smooth the progress over a given set of assumptions, to prevent a fatal collision, or an impending jolt; never directly to search or grasp primary principles; never to look into the heart of man, or to gaze into the spirit of God.

## "AT ODDS."

*At Odds.* A Novel. By the Baroness Tautphoeus. Author of "The Initials," &c. (Bentley.)

PLEASANT as it is to welcome so fair a pledge of literary excellence as the history of Elizabeth Gilmour, it is more agreeable still to be greeted by an old friend whose name is associated with so many gratifying reminiscences as that of the Baroness Tautphoeus. It would be difficult to name a modern novel more thoroughly enjoyable than the "Initials," and impossible to find one better qualified to sustain the test of frequent reperusal. Though entirely free from any parade of didactic or æsthetic pretensions, though bright in conception and lively in style, our authoress's writings, nevertheless, display the serious sense and practical ability which might befit a moralist or an economist, and which interpose an impassable gulf between them and the ephemeral class into which, at first sight, they might seem to fall. Qualities of this description afford the best guarantee for continued merit and popularity. As the charms of a cultivated mind outlive personal attractions, so the clear sense, acute perception, and accurate social knowledge, manifested in the "Initials," continue to flourish long after the first sweet blush of idyllic feeling has inevitably and irrevocably faded away. Deficient in the charming freshness of the "Initials," "Cyrilla" made great amends by the careful construction and breathless interest of the story. "Quits," a work full of admirable details, struck upon the rock of a divided interest—it was a jostle of two incoherent plots. "At Odds" avoids this particular fault. The same personages claim, the same problem suspends our interest throughout. Yet the conduct of the story is too lax: there are too many changes of scene, too many intervals of time, besides an obvious disposition to eke out the the dimensions of the book by hardly relevant, albeit certainly very interesting, details of the uprising of the Tyrolean patriots against Bavaria and Napoleon. But everywhere there is crystal clearness, masculine vigour, and the strongest evidences of a singularly acute and penetrating intellect.

Next to the foreign locality of the Baroness's stories, and the peculiar situation in which they are invariably made to turn, this remarkable good sense is their principal characteristic. It is not to be confounded with the wide view and judicial impartiality of George Eliot—for it is a quality in itself, instead of the mere equilibrium of magnificent faculties. It is rather the enlightened estimate of social matters natural to a person of unusual sagacity, combined with more than the average degree of sensibility and imagination. The authoress possesses that best of good judgment which is its own judge, and too just to assign itself the highest rank in the noble army of virtues. While her habitual tone of thought is eminently practical, not to say worldly, there is throughout an evident effort to recognise affection, self-sacrifice, disinterestedness, at their true value; a genuine sympathy with patriotism, and every healthy manifestation of a nation's life; a love of rural pursuits and simple pleasures; and a half-concealed uneasiness at the comparative heartlessness of the polished circles from which she cannot dissociate herself. This contrast imparts a peculiar piquancy to her books. Like the Hermaphrodite of the Witch of Atlas, her charming heroines are moulded out of fire and snow; and it is most amusing to observe the dexterity with which they are piloted along the *Al Sirat* of prudence, keen and cold as a razor, into the Paradise of respectable matrimonial felicity. Should they fall into the tumultuous flood of passion at their feet, there is no mercy for them—whether intriguing Minas or irreproachable Cyrillas. The plot of the tale before us turns entirely upon the supposition, assumed by the authoress as self-evident, of the power of the world's opinion to coerce a young officer of the highest spirit and most excellent disposition into a line of

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conduct which he detests, which he knows to be wholly unjustifiable, and which he expects to prove the destruction of the happiness of her whom he most values in the world. To our thinking, the incredibility of this incident is the main flaw in the novel. The state of the case is as follows:—Frank O'More loves Doris, and is engaged to her; Doris ditto, ditto Frank; Hilda, her sister, loves Frank, and is betrothed to Sigmund; Sigmund loves Doris, and is betrothed to Hilda; Mina loves Sigmund, and is neither beloved by nor engaged to anybody. The complication, nearly equal to the sword-and-dagger scene in the "Critic," is terminated by this Mina, who, jealous of Sigmund's pretensions, contrives to compromise Hilda with Frank to such a degree that he is compelled to marry her. Similar cases in real life might, no doubt, be easily produced; and we suspect that some such occurrence has afforded the groundwork of the present story. But we are confident that the actual hero of the adventure must have been a very different person from Frank O'More. The plot and the characters, in fact, do not fit; the entire current of the action is poisoned at the source. That the interest of the story is not entirely destroyed must be accepted as a rare proof of the authoress's abilities. Once grant the premises, and the conduct of the incidents is irreproachable. The behaviour of Hilda and Frank under the circumstances supposed is perfectly consistent with their characters; and, though the ultimate adjustment of their relations is hardly in doubt, the history is so pleasantly varied with incident and underplot that the reader is carried buoyantly on to a foregone conclusion. The situation, indeed, is highly dramatic, but substantially identical with that in which the Baroness has always before been pleased to place her heroes and heroines. "A wife and no wife" is the motto of all her works. In the "Initials," Hildegard's hand follows her heart at the respectable interval of a volume and a half. In "Cyrilla" the case is reversed; here the previously inseparable cousins are "joined" only to be "put asunder." It cannot be denied that this monotony of incident amounts to a mannerism; yet, with the fullest perception of the fact, we read on without any sense of satiety, and with interest scarcely diminished. Much is due to the writer's perfect mastery of the *art de conter*; more to the extreme sympathy inspired by the really charming youthful group whose fortunes we accompany. A moderately searching analysis would easily resolve these characters into their primitive elements, and exhibit Hilda's lovely wilfulness, and Frank's impetuous chivalry, and the statuesque dignity of the devoted Doris as beauties of the Composite order—skilful blendings of types already familiar to the authoress and her readers; yet, so exquisite is the effect produced, that we should shrink from such an attempt as a desecration. What is really new is Hilda's artless jealousy of the nominal husband, with whom she is professedly "at odds"—a beautiful example of delicate and perfectly lifelike treatment. It is difficult to avoid suspecting that the leading facts of the story are borrowed from particulars within the authoress's knowledge; if so, we can only repeat our regret that she should have transformed the worthy German, who must have supported the principal character, into a young, handsome, fascinating, but with himself and his country most inconsistent Irishman. This is the more singular, as the authoress, herself a daughter of Erin, appears to perfectly appreciate the national character. The few Irish details we get are replete with spirit and life. Of the literary merit of the book it is needless to speak, except just to remind the Baroness that "overseen" for "overlooked" is an oversight.

Having frequently referred to "Cyrilla," we may take the opportunity of mentioning that the tragic *dénouement* of that work, so generally condemned as melodramatic, is a simple transcript of a real occurrence. The details are taken from the case of Assessor

Zahn, related in the twenty-fourth volume of "Der Neue Pitaval," from which a considerable part of the third volume of "Cyrilla" is literally translated. As these particulars were not published till 1856, the Baroness must have had access to MS. sources of information. We do not know whether this coincidence merely extends to the catastrophe, or whether, were it related in its entirety, Assessor Zahn's history would prove the exact counterpart of Assessor Zorndorff's. Few writers are more studious of nature and truth than the Baroness Tautphoeus; nor is any pen more sedulously dedicated to the delineation of something that was, or is, or is to be.

## SERVIA AND THE SERVIANS.

*Servia and the Servians.* By the Rev. W. Denton, M.A. (Bell and Daldy.)

*The Serbian Nation and the Eastern Question.* By Vladimir Yovanovitch. (Bell and Daldy.)

*The Case of Servia.* By a Serb. (Bell and Daldy.)

WHERE is Servia, who are the Serbs, and what is the Servian question? These are questions which can easily be answered by a perusal of the works at the head of our article. A few months since English literature would have given little help in solving any of these questions.

Mr. Denton made an excursion into Servia in the spring of last year. In a genial, cordial spirit he sketches the places and the people he visited. The result is a work calculated to rouse strong sympathy with a free-spirited Christian race, seeking at this moment to advance the civilization and material prosperity of their country.

The country now known as Servia is neither co-extensive with the whole region at present inhabited by the Servian people nor with the ancient Servian empire. The bulk of the Serbs are resident in Hungary, and are subjects of Austria. Ancient Servia extended from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, and included Macedonia, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Ragusa, Dalmatia, and Croatia. The present principality of Servia has an extent of only about a thousand square miles. It is triangular in shape, and contained between the Save, the Danube, the Timok, and the Drina. The Save and the Danube separate it on the north from Slavonia, the Banat, and Wallachia; on the west the Drina divides it from Bosnia. On the east it is bounded by Bulgaria, and on the south by Albania and other districts of Roumelia. On the Turkish side the frontier is ill-defined, and possesses no natural means of defence. The country is about 190 miles in extent at its widest part, and about 120 from north to south. Though well watered, Servia has but little water communication. The government, however, are taking preliminary steps for the improvement of the present navigable channel of the great Morava, which, running through the whole of Servia, divides it into two almost equal parts, and falls into the Danube near Semandria. This will open a communication between this fertile country and the towns of the Danube, and get rid of the present tedious and expensive land-traffic by the heavy wagons of the country. Servia abounds in wild mountain scenery. The valleys are very fertile, and the pasturages swarm with cattle. In some parts, the hills and mountains are still covered with dense forests, mostly of oak and ash, of beech and birch. Where these have been cleared, the slopes of the hills are green with vineyards and fields of Indian corn. Though the country lies so far to the south and east of Great Britain, the vegetation is almost entirely English. Servia has valuable iron, copper, and lead mines; its mineral wealth is considerable; and at Dobra, coal, pronounced by English viewers as equal to that of Newcastle, has been obtained at only twenty yards from the surface. Belgrade, Semandria, Schabatz, Ushitza, and Kragujewatz, are the principal towns.

The present principality of Servia is almost co-extensive with the Roman province of

Moesia Superior. About the middle of the seventh century, the Serbians, a Slavonic tribe, entered Moesia. They took forcible possession of the country, and founded the kingdom of Servia. The language of Servia, because of its softness, has been called the Italian Slavonic. Niebuhr considered it the most perfect in grammatical structure of any of the languages of modern Europe.

During the decline of the Roman Empire, the power and territory of Servia increased, till, in the middle of the fourteenth century, the authority of Stephen Dushan, the Emperor of Servia, was acknowledged from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. His immediate successor lost the whole of Roumelia to the Turks; and from that time the limits of Servia were gradually circumscribed. In the middle of the fifteenth century Servia became in name and reality a province of Turkey, though Belgrade was held by a Christian garrison till 1522. From 1717 to 1791 Servia was alternately occupied by the armies of Austria and Turkey. The petty persecutions of the Austrian government and the rapacity of its troops made many of the Servians prefer the capricious cruelty of the Mussulmans to the persistent and vexatious tyranny of the Austrians. While the authority of the Sultan was respected by the governors of the conquered province, and the orders from Constantinople faithfully executed, the condition of the Christians of Servia, though hard, was not intolerable. Though all freedom of worship was denied, they were able to meet in caves, and in the deep solitude of the forests. In some villages a mean hovel was even tacitly permitted to be used for the rites of Christian worship. As the Sultan's power declined, the anarchy and petty tyranny of his local governors increased, till, after four centuries of submission, the barbarities of the Turks compelled the people of Servia to revolt and fight for independence. The atrocities committed by the Turks were frightful. Christian prisoners were hurled against the walls of fortresses by catapults. Infants were thrown into scalding water in the presence of their mothers, in derision of the rite of baptism. The esplanade which slopes from the walls of the citadel of Belgrade was for months covered with a succession of corpses of the Servian patriots who had been impaled and had died after days of lingering and agonizing suffering. After a struggle which lasted many years, Prince Milosh, in 1826, virtually freed the whole of Servia from Turkish rule; and that freedom was confirmed by the treaty of Akerman and the Hatti-cherif of the Sultan. The whole internal administration of the country was left in the hands of the native authorities, subject to the suzerainty of the Porte, and the succession of the government was made hereditary in the family of Prince Milosh. Unfortunately, the great powers of Europe, who gave no assistance to the Servians in attaining their freedom, stipulated that six places in Servia should receive Turkish garrisons. The troops were to possess no authority out of the walls of the garrisons, and were not permitted to live in the interior of the country. The late bombardment of Belgrade and the present complications in Servia have been results of a disregard of these stipulations.

In 1839 Prince Milosh, who had become unpopular, was obliged to abdicate. His eldest son succeeded while in a dying state, and at his death his younger brother, Michel, became prince. In 1842 he was compelled to follow the example of his father, and to quit the country. Prince Alexander Kara Georgovitch, the son of the popular hero and liberator of Servia, then ascended the throne. For a time he was popular, and under his wise direction the country made great advances. He fell under the suspicion, however, of too great a subserviency to Austria; and in 1858 the general assembly of national representatives compelled him to abdicate, and recalled Prince Milosh from retirement. He survived his recall about a twelvemonth; and in 1860 Prince Michel succeeded, for

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the second time, as hereditary Prince of Servia.

Such are some of the particulars, past and present, which we have gleaned for our readers from Mr. Denton's pleasant volume. Of course, as an English clergyman, he was most interested in the Church-system of Servia. He gives a most favourable account of the Servian clergy. They are all members of the Greek Church; and all, from the Archbishop of Belgrade and Metropolitan of Servia to the poorest parish-priest, seemed to hail the visit of a clergyman of the Church of England as that of a brother. The archbishop was well acquainted with the labours of those English clergymen who have written on the Eastern Church, and said he had always regarded the Church of England with peculiar interest. Archbishop Michel speaks seven languages, and made a most favourable impression on Mr. Denton. The parochial clergy seemed to occupy much the same position with regard to their flocks as the English clergy. Being married, and living in the midst of their people, they exercise a considerable influence in the social economy of their parishes. The monastic clergy are said to be generally inferior to the parochial, the majority of them being little better than peasants in cassocks. Monasticism is not popular in Servia; and there has been a motion in the general deliberative assembly of the people to abolish the monastic order and permit marriage to every clergyman, whether secular or regular. Indeed, the monasteries would almost before this have become deserted had it not been for the widower clergy of the country, who are compelled to enter them. By the rule of the Eastern Church, the parish priest must be a married man; and, by the same rule, a priest cannot contract a second marriage. When a parish-priest, therefore, loses his wife he becomes disqualified from holding a parochial charge, and is compelled to enter a monastery. To such men the monotony and restraints of a monastic life are most irksome. A few of them become professors and teachers in the seminaries at Belgrade, and furnish the Servian Episcopate with its more learned bishops. The question of permitting the parish-priest who has lost his wife to contract a second marriage has already been agitated in the Servian Church.

The language used for the services of the Church is the old Slavonic. This, though a dead language, and used only for ecclesiastical purposes, bears so close a resemblance to the vernacular that the people are always able to join in the hymns and prayers of the public service, and evidently fully understand the meaning of the words they are using. The church-books were formerly printed in Russia—they are now supplied by the printing-presses of Belgrade. The type and paper are clear and good; and the Bibles, which are commonly seen on the shelves of the peasant cottages in the interior, are quite equal in general appearance to our English printed Bibles. On the whole, Mr. Denton remarks, if we make allowances for the long persecution of the Church in Servia, the attainments and condition of the priests are remarkable, and their influence on the population gratifying. His own impressions, he says, fully bear out the estimate of Canon Stanley, who, after a survey of the whole orthodox Church, sums up his convictions in these weighty words:—"We, too, with all our energy and life, may learn something from the otherwise unparalleled sight of whole nations and races of men, penetrated by the religious sentiment which visibly sways their minds even when it fails to reach their conduct, which, if it has produced but few whom we should call saints or philosophers, has produced through centuries of oppression whole armies of confessors and martyrs. We may learn something from the sight of a calm strength reposing 'in the quietness and confidence' of a treasure of hereditary belief, which the possessor is content to value for himself, without forcing it on the reception of others. We may learn something from the sight of

churches, where religion is not abandoned to the care of women and children, but is claimed as the right and privilege of men; where the Church reposes not so much on the force and influence of its clergy as on the independent knowledge and manly zeal of its laity."

A glimpse of the peasant-life of a country is the best means of arriving at the value of its government as a means of securing the happiness of the people:—

In our saunter through Granpek, we looked into one of the cottages, and were courteously invited by the peasant woman who resided there to enter. The cottage consisted of two rooms, one used as a kitchen, the other as a sitting and bedroom. A shed adjoining the cottage was filled with wood and garden tools, and at the end of a small kitchen garden, fringed with bright flowers, stood a little framework summer-house, raised some twenty feet from the ground, and giving a view of the whole valley. The small kitchen was almost entirely filled with the fire-place, which projected half across the room, and was so contrived as to enable the person engaged in cooking to do so without going in front of the fire. The sitting-room was scrupulously clean, with a polished oak floor, guiltless of any covering. On the walls were a couple of beautifully ornamented pistols, a musket, and a yataghan; and in one of the corners of the room hung pictures of St. Nicholas, the Blessed Virgin and Child, and a couple of Scripture prints, with a small silver lamp in front. The most conspicuous decorations of the room, however, in addition to a large bouquet of flowers on the table, consisted of the handsome black and red coverlet to the beds. As we were looking round the room, a little boy, about six years of age, came in, and after taking off his little red cap, took our hands and kissed them. This is the usual salutation which all children give to their elders. On a side-table in the cottage were three piles of books, a Servian Bible printed at Belgrade, school-books, an almanack, two or three religious biographies, a short abstract of history, and a collection of Servian songs. Of all these I made mental note in the absence of the woman, who, leaving the room as soon as we had entered it, shortly after returned with a tray of wine and light bread. It would be impossible to find greater personal and house cleanliness in any place than we found here, or more courtesy, unmingled with anything like fawning and servility. We had stumbled into this cottage by accident, but we were told, what more extended experience confirmed, that it was an average specimen of the cottage of a Servian peasant.

Many who read Mr. Denton's book, and who have the means and leisure, and seek for a summer tour out of the beaten track of tourists, we feel assured, will avail themselves of his recommendation:—

When it is remembered that Servia is only four days' distance from London, or at the most that such a journey will not occupy more than a week, and when we take into account the wildness and beauty of the scenery, and the attraction it offers to the sportsman, it is very surprising that so few English travellers should visit the country. It is so much easier to keep to the beaten track, which Handbooks make so smooth to us, than to explore new districts, that people are content with the Rhine or Moselle, when far more majestic rivers, with grander scenery and an equal historic character, are within their reach. As though the Drachenfels were a meet rival to the iron gates of the Danube, or the beauty of any part of the Rhine could compare with that of this river in the upper part of its course! Those who endure, as part of the necessary evils of travel, the dirt of Germany, and the petty and vexatious inconveniences with which some continental governments annoy the traveller, will be charmed with the cleanliness of the Servian people, and the perfect freedom which is enjoyed in a country where the constitution is as free and the franchise more extended than that of England. There are, indeed, no wealthy magnates as in Hungary; but the country houses of the Servian gentry, and the homesteads of the farmers, are as comfortable as can be desired; and a residence amongst this most hospitable people will be one of real enjoyment. In no country is life or property more secure; and the peasants of no part of continental Europe can compare with those of Servia for that truest of all courtesies, which is based upon a spirit of independence, and springs from true gentleness of character. The salutations of the peasants to the traveller have no trace of

servility. They are universal; but they are the mutual homage which one free man renders to another. I once asked of a Servian gentleman, "whether there were any nobles in Servia?" "Every Servian is noble," was the proud reply. Whatever might be the social and political import of these words, when I look back upon the kindness, the courtesy, and the hospitality with which I was treated, I cannot consider the boast altogether without warrant; and, at any rate, I am recording the result of my own experience, when I say that every Servian is a gentleman.

The political aspect of the Servian question is well handled by Mr. Denton, Vladimir Yovanovitch, and a Serb. They ask, Is it not wiser policy to encourage the growth of independent Christian countries with a zeal for political freedom, a love of independence, and a desire for progress, than to attempt to prop up an *effete* Mohammedan power crumbling to destruction and radically opposed to all freedom and improvement? Though the Church-system of Servia is the same as that of Russia, the people of Servia value their liberties too much to barter them for Russian despotism. Like the Greeks, they look to the constitutional government of Britain and the sympathies of free Englishmen for help. They assert that they would be a better guard for our Indian possessions and a better check to Russian aggression than any bolstering up of the power of Turkey.

## NEW EDITION OF COLERIDGE'S POEMS.

*The Poems of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.* Edited by Derwent and Sarah Coleridge. With an Appendix. (Moxon.)

IT is too late now to attempt to fix the precise place Coleridge should occupy amongst the poets of the nineteenth century. For nearly fifty years the chief part of his poetical works have been undergoing critical examination, adversely in some few instances, but chiefly with an appreciation as honestly discriminative as it has been genuinely affectionate. Few of his contemporaries have stood the various tests applied to prove sterling value so successfully as Coleridge. Nor is there one of them from whose works less could be spared without injury to reputation of the writer, or without regret on the part of the reading public. Readers of all classes, from the most superficial to the most profound, agree in their admiration of the splendour and beauty of his language, the vigour and originality of his thoughts, and the careful and delicate finish of nearly every poem he has left us. He was not abundant like Wordsworth, Scott, Byron, or Shelley; but we feel that, if he had been, there would have been in him only more to admire.

The present edition of his poems may be regarded as the most complete we are ever likely to have. Those to whom his reputation is a cherished inheritance took in hand the task of editing this volume; and it has been done lovingly, and almost reverently—yet with careful judgment. In the present instance some few pieces have been added that had not been brought into past editions, because they were forgotten, or not known, and a few others, which, for certain reasons, were rejected by the author himself after they had appeared in early editions; though for what reason they were set aside it would be difficult to guess, seeing that they are for the most part quite worthy to occupy a place, though not a first place, in any collection of his poems.

There is nothing in them, however, that will in any way alter the general estimate of Coleridge as a poet. Those who are acquainted with the peculiar character of his sonnets will at once recognise the claim of the following, which is taken from a work published several years since, entitled "Letters, Recollections, and Conversations of S. T. Coleridge," to be placed beside those which have always formed part of his collected poems:—

It may, indeed, be phantasy when I  
Essay to draw from all created things  
Deep, heartfelt, inward joy that closely clings;  
And trace in leaves and flowers that round me lie

Lessons of love and earnest piety.  
So let it be; and, if the wide world rings  
In mock of this belief, it brings  
Nor fear, nor grief, nor vain perplexity.  
So will I build my altar in the fields,  
And the blue sky my fretted dome shall be,  
And the sweet fragrance that the wild flower yields  
Shall be the incense I will yield to thee,  
Thee only, God! and thou shalt not despise  
Even me, the priest of this poor sacrifice.

The world was not too much, but too little with Coleridge; his powerful imagination was almost entirely unchecked by business intercourse with his fellow-men. An indolent disposition and defective health kept him from those busy haunts where the prosaic strivings of life are carried on; and, whilst he felt in himself the miseries that usually attend a life of inaction, he sighed over the sufferings of the world as they were presented to him in dreams, in visions, and in reveries, and, it must be admitted too, as realities—in which character they afflicted painfully a mind morbidly sympathetic; but, when he poured out his plaints, they were so refined by philosophic thought and Christian resignation, that what was painful to him became a noble medicine, calculated for ever to soothe and comfort those who in this world may be called on to suffer. There is fine consoling faith in the following:—

O Lady! we receive but what we give,  
And in our life alone does nature live:  
Ours is her wedding garment, ours her shroud:  
And, would we ought behold of higher worth  
Than that inanimate cold world allowed  
To the poor loveless over-anxious crowd,  
Ah! from the soul itself must issue forth  
A light, a glory, a fair luminous cloud  
Enveloping the earth;—

And from the soul herself must there be sent  
A sweet and potent voice, of its own birth,  
Of all sweet sounds the life and element!  
Oh, pure of heart! thou need'st not ask of me  
What this strong music in the soul may be!  
What, and wherein it doth exist,  
This light, this glory, this fair luminous mist,  
This beautiful and beauty-making power.  
Joy, virtuous Lady! joy, that ne'er was given  
Save to the pure, and in their purest hour—  
Life and life's affluence, cloud at once and shower,  
Joy, Lady! is the spirit and the power,  
Which wedding Nature to us gives in dower—  
A new Earth and new Heaven,  
Undreamt of by the sensual and the proud.  
Joy is the sweet voice, joy the luminous cloud:  
We in ourselves rejoice!  
And thence flows all that charms our ear or sight—  
All melodies the echoes of that voice,  
All colours a suffusion from that light.

We must not, however, permit ourselves to go beyond what may be called new in this volume; and of that we shall simply give one more extract—a little poem rejected from the edition of 1796, which establishes so completely its paternity, that one cannot but wonder why for sixty-eight years it was excluded from the family-circle, on the outside of which it even now stands.

"In my calmer moments," says Coleridge, "I have the firmest faith that all things work together for good. But, alas! it seems a long and dark process."

Such is the sad text—the comment of the poet being as follows:—

The early year's fast flying vapours stray  
In shadowy trains across the orb of day;  
And we, poor insects of a few short hours,  
Deem it a world of gloom—  
Were it not better hope a nobler doom,  
Proud to believe, that with more active powers  
On rapid many-coloured wing  
We through one bright perpetual spring  
Shall hover round the fruits and flowers,  
Screen'd by those clouds, and cherished by those  
showers.

#### "SKIRMISHING."

*Skirmishing.* By the Author of "Cousin Stella."  
(Smith, Elder, & Co.)

THE mere size of "Skirmishing" is a recommendation in itself. The tyranny of custom still maintains the standard three-volume size as being the only one possible for a novel. However much or however little an author has to say, he is expected to give so much letter-press, neither more nor less. And, as it happens that the great majority of novelists write with a very slender stock of materials to work upon, the attempt to dilute their matter over three lengthy tomes destroys whatever

originality they might otherwise lay claim to. We scarcely ever knew a three-volume novel which we did not wish, for the author's sake as well as our own, had been shorter, or a single-volume one, with perhaps the sole exception of "Silas Marner," which we wished had been longer. "Skirmishing" is a case in point. The back-bone of the story is very slight; and the novel, if spread over the standard length, would be a weak and uninteresting one. Told, as it is, in one short volume, it is a really charming novel. Every page tells; there is no book-making about it, no attempt to fill out chapters with appropriate reflections. Each sentence is written carefully; and the result is that we have a real work of art, such as a weary critic has seldom the pleasure of meeting with. The ladies and gentlemen in the story live and move like people we have known or might have known; and, if the female characters seem to us somewhat more true to nature than the male, that is only saying that the author writes best of what she understands best.

The admirers of sensation literature must not come to "Skirmishing" for gratification of their taste. There is absolutely nothing sensational about the story, except a very transparent mystery; while several opportunities for harrowing descriptions and startling effects are neglected with the most wilful disregard for the fashion of the day. Indeed, the work before us can hardly be called a novel, in the strict signification of the phrase. There is no heroine, and no hero. The loves of the couple who answer to this description have been all arranged and settled before the story begins; and the trials, which their passion has to endure throughout the narrative, are of a very slight description. "Skirmishing," in fact, is only an episode in the episode of the little village of Eden—the one bit of romance in the history of the Greatorex family. We are introduced point-blank, as it were, into the intimacy of a very pleasant household, live with them as visitors for a month or so, during which we see the beginning, middle, and end of a little domestic drama, and then pass on our way, leaving our friends of a week to go on with the even tenor of their tranquil lives. We are all the more delighted with our recollections, from the fact that our first introduction does not impress us with very brilliant expectations. When we find that the scene opens with the conversation of an earnest, handsome young curate and the rector's daughter, to whom he is engaged, as they walk home from church together we fancy we know beforehand what we are going to endure. We expect discussions on parish-schools, disquisitions on the feelings of discontented old women and refractory urchins, and second-hand scraps of feeble moralizing. In fact, we fancy we are in for a sermon under the garb of a novel. We very shortly find out our mistake. All the people we are made acquainted with are, it is true, more or less religious; but their religion is one of deeds, not of words; and the few passages of directly doctrinal import are introduced so gracefully and gently, that we quite lose the impression of being lectured to. All the characters in this *bijou* story are shadowed out with a strange delicacy of touch. Here, for instance, is the father of the Greatorex family:—

Of the rector himself, any description may be spared. He is unremarkable in person, would not be out of place in a palace or in a cottage. So moderate in all his views and actions, doing his duty to his parishioners, his neighbours, and his family so much as a matter of course, having no consciousness of being better or wiser than his fellowmen, that no one supposes him to be so—he is taken at his own estimate. He does not even perceive that he is under-rated; therefore, it is of no consequence that he is so.

Then there is Mrs. Greatorex, the rector's wife, very beautiful, very good, and excellent as a daughter, wife, mother, and mistress, thoroughly satisfied with herself and not without reason, kind of heart and yet not altogether loveable. It is her misfortune

rather than her fault that she had never undergone the teaching of sorrow.

She had never in her life suffered—never had had any occasion to be uneasy as to how she should or should not act, or been anxious as to the effect she might produce on others. She could not, of course, be blind or deaf to the existence of suffering in others, nor was she unmerciful, or unwilling to help; but she had always a private belief that it was, on the whole, 'people's' own doing, people's own fault, when they got into trouble.

Then there is the most charming of old ladies, Mrs. Lescrimière, the mother of Mrs. Greatorex—French by birth and education and English by adoption. With her quick warm feelings, her respect and love for her English family tempered by a keen sense of the absurdity of their conventional rules, always espousing the weaker side with more generosity than logic, sympathizing with everybody, not caring to hide her likes and dislikes, and constantly wondering how her daughter, the very pattern of a respectable English matron, could be so unlike herself—you feel that she must have been the brightest person in that quiet household. The rector is too sensible a man to be offended by the paradoxes she is so fond of asserting; but the solemn priggish young curate cannot comprehend a joke, and the old French lady takes a malicious pleasure in outraging his prejudices. We don't wonder that Mr. Escott was not over-fond of his future grandmother-in-law. It is not pleasant for a youthful pastor to be snubbed in the presence of his bride and her young brothers and sisters; nor is the ecclesiastical mind very tolerant of being pooh-poohed by people whose position places them above being sermonized. Thus, on one occasion, when Escott is objecting, as in duty bound, to the conduct of some recent comers into the neighbourhood, who never go to church, Mrs. Lescrimière interrupts him after this fashion:—

"Oh! my dear curate," she said, waving her hand, "I know what you are going to say perfectly well. I don't deny your reasons; only allow that I am reasonable also when I beg you to remember that there were Christians—excellent, the best of Christians—before they had any church to go to. Ah! you don't forget, I am sure, that the Jews and Pagans persecuted and despised them for not going to their temples. Now don't all of you look as though I deserved to be packed up between two faggots."

The argument is perfectly feminine and inconclusive; but the curate was not quick at repartee; and also, before marriage, a man can hardly say all he thinks to his betrothed's relations. Then, too, this lady had a way of quoting Scripture perversely—not in a profane spirit, but with a familiarity not reckoned quite decorous in England, which must have been very trying in a clerical circle.

Maud, the heroine, though lightly sketched, is a pretty picture of a quiet, loving English girl:—

Her parents thought her perfect, her brothers and sisters loved her, admired her, and plagued her, in tolerably equal proportions; the whole parish, school-children included, spoke well of Miss Maud.

Unfortunately, her lover has not a very large heart, though what there is of it belongs to Maud; and the coldness of his love is the trouble which the poor little maiden has to bear. The curate himself is the least consistent personage in the work. There are hundreds of men—and clergymen—as rude, as ill-bred, and as priggish, as Escott is drawn. It is possible they may be very excellent Christians, or, at any rate, may discharge all the duties of life in a most exemplary manner; but they are not gentlemen. Now, the curate of Eden is constantly making remarks which one lady might make to another if she was of a censorious disposition, but which no gentleman could make. Spiritual pastors are undoubtedly apt to assume a feminine license of language, but, when they do so, they cease to be gentlemen; and yet Escott is meant to be a gentleman all along. However, it is perfectly true to nature that such a man should win the heart of a fond simple girl; and, if

after marriage he lectured her and schooled her, as he would most certainly have done, our only comfort is that the class of women to whom Maud belongs like to be disciplined, and love the hand that chastens them. We must not forget the pleasant group of children, with Carry at their head—who is worth a dozen Mauds—"Grand Mamma's darling, Papa's pet, eleven-years-old Carry—Carry of the dove-like eyes, blue eyes with large drooping lids."

Into the valley of Eden there come serpents, in the persons of Mrs. Brown and her child. The intruders, indeed, are of a very harmless character, with more of the innocence of the dove than the wisdom of the creeping reptile. But, unwillingly, and by no fault of their own, they perturb for a time the harmony of the little community. Their wish is to court perfect seclusion; but the rector's family, out of kindness of heart, seek them out, and force them into society, and hence comes the origin of trouble. We are not going to spoil the pleasure of the many readers of "Skirmishing" by telling them the story beforehand—so we say nothing of its plot.

The book is beautifully written. We can only quote one extract, to tempt our readers to look for more. Poor Maud is in trouble; she fancies that her lover has ceased to care for her, and her whole life appears to have been made shipwreck; and then the monotony of the round of daily duties becomes to her painfully torturing.

"She had heard and seen the same sayings and doings over and over again for years. Everything seemed to have stood still but herself; she had suddenly burst into some new world. After tea she would have to play Mozart's Twelfth Mass to her father, and he would go to sleep, and wake up with the last chord, and thank her with the same politeness as though she had been some guest. . . . Prayers at ten, and a courteous good night to the assembled servants, and then Maud was in her own room. . . . She placed the light on the mantelpiece, and went and leaned against the window; there was light enough from the stars to let her see the church, and the white head-stones round it, and the white footpath leading thither. She knew every inch of ground she looked upon, and loved it; the scene was not picturesque, but simple, homely, and so quiet. Nothing moving save the bony-looking, leafless branches of the trees.

"They seem to be brushing the sky," Maud said to herself; and yet she was thinking of anything rather than the trees, if thinking could be called that bewildered consciousness of sorrow—of having been stupid in the past and of having a blank for the future. "It will be all the same a hundred years hence," soliloquized the poor thing; "all these people lying so tranquilly under the church-walls had heavy aching hearts at one time." And then she felt something softly tickling her cheek, and putting up her cold hand she found hot tears rolling down her cheek.

"Ah!" as the French grandmother said to herself when Maud had come to sob away her sorrow in those kind old arms, "Le bon vieux temps quand j'étais si malheureuse."

E. D.

#### YEARSLEY ON DEAFNESS.

*Deafness, Practically Illustrated.* By James Yearsley, M.D. Sixth Edition. (Churchill and Sons.)

IT may seem strange that loss of hearing should produce a far worse effect on the individual than loss of sight; but it is not hard to understand why the blind man is more resigned to his lot than the deaf. The blind man, it is true, is more dependent; but he is the more thankful for services rendered to him: his remaining senses are sharpened, and he is quick in hearing anything that is said in his presence; he has no reason, therefore, to conclude that people are discussing him or his malady. The deaf man, on the contrary, can only see the lips moving; remarks are almost sure to be made about him; harmless or sympathetic they may be—but his suspicions are roused. He sees something is said about him; he supposes that what is said is to his discredit or contains some sneer at his infirmity. He broods over

the fancied wrong, distrusts the friends who would gladly cheer him, shuns society, and becomes morose, suspicious, and ill-tempered. It were well, therefore, that the deaf should instruct themselves as to the nature of their malady, that they may know whether they are incurable or not.

So little has been known, until lately, of the diseases to which the ear is liable that deaf persons often submit hopelessly to their infirmity in the idea that there are no remedies. That this is not the case Dr. Yearsley has laboured satisfactorily to prove; and his book, which embodies the results of many years' practice, is admirably adapted to impart hope and knowledge to those who suffer from loss of hearing. The directions he gives for distinguishing the forms of deafness, and for the appropriate treatment, are plain and lucid. Particularly is he to be recommended for his disapprobation of the frequent use of the syringe, astringent injections, and blisters. These often constitute the only means the practitioner has to suggest. They have been, therefore, far too often recommended, and the result has been disbelief in the art of healing.

Such errors of treatment arise from a deficient knowledge of the apparatus of the ear. Speaking roughly, this may be said to consist of an external tube to collect sounds, a stretched membrane to localize them, a second tube communicating with the throat, to allow the continuation of vibrations, and a chain of small bones which transfers the sounds to a second membrane, from which they are transferred through a fluid to the nerve. Deafness may result from faults in any part of this apparatus. A very common form of deafness is that which commences with tingling and pain in the external tube, accompanied with depraved secretion. The patient is annoyed by cracking noises in the ear, or in laying the ear on the pillow his hearing is suddenly dulled. These symptoms result from portions of wax being either detached, and allowing air to rush in suddenly, or pressed against the drum. For this form of deafness Dr. Yearsley recommends the introduction of a small pledget of cotton wool, after the wax has been removed by syringe or forceps. But it is not at all advisable that the introduction of instruments should be left to an inexperienced hand. A well-known African traveller had the ill-luck to get a beetle into his ear; and, by his clumsy attempts to extract it, he created so much irritation that the drum of his ear was perforated, and a most unpleasant whistle resulted when he spoke. Dr. Yearsley has been fortunate enough to hit upon a most useful expedient for this malady. By carefully adjusting a small piece of moistened cotton wool, he has succeeded in supporting the sound portion of the perforated drum; and thus the missing link, requisite for hearing, is restored. In his strictures upon other men Dr. Yearsley should remember (and there is no intention here to depreciate the value of the remedy or Dr. Yearsley's share in it) that the principle involved was suggested to him by the happy accident of a gentleman recovering his hearing in a similar case upon the introduction of a piece of wet paper into the ear.

Stoppage of the Eustachian tube is far the most common form of deafness. According to Dr. Yearsley, four-fifths of the cases which come under his notice are of this kind. It is generally the result of sore throat and cold: it may result from a disordered stomach. The back of the throat is of a purplish hue and streaked with arborescent vessels. If the opening of the tube becomes plugged, the only way to restore hearing is to remove the impediment by the introduction of an instrument—which may be done without causing any pain.

Defect of the auditory nerve is rare; and there is a simple method of discovering whether the nerve is injured. If the patient can hear the sound of his own voice, or the ticking of a watch placed on the ear, he may be sure that the nerve is not in fault. Where deafness has existed for some time, the

nerve by disuse loses much of its sensitiveness. The patient will then hear high-pitched sounds better than low ones; and the rumbling of carriages will give him an advantage over an ordinary person. As yet, no satisfactory trumpet for general conversation has been invented. Perhaps the best trumpet is the flexible tube invented by Dunker—which is very portable, and enables two persons to converse at a distance; but it is not available for general conversation. As to the propriety of using ear-trumpets Dr. Yearsley gives very sound advice. They should not be used while active disease is going on in the ear; otherwise they do no harm.

There is one remark in the book which deserves to be noticed: that the organs of sense are more perfect among the dark than the white races. Dr. Yearsley supports this opinion by a reference to the fine senses of the North American Indians. A few months' experience among the Indians and Half-Breeds of the Northern Prairies leads, however, to the conviction that it is practice and not nature that has made their senses so perfect. Men unpractised in the chase or the war-trail have been led to exaggerate the powers of these Indians. A Sioux or a Chippewa would similarly exaggerate the gifts of a sailor in desecrating land, or of a musician in distinguishing the nice intervals of music.

#### FERGUSON ON MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

*History of the Modern Styles of Architecture: being a Sequel to the Handbook of Architecture.* By James Fergusson. (Murray.)

THIS book, independently of the fact of its being by the author of the "Handbook of Architecture," ought to be gratefully accepted by every one who takes an interest in the subject as a welcome accession to the works on that art, inasmuch as it supplies a want which many must have frequently felt. Architecture has certainly been treated, over and over again, by a number of able and learned men; but they have nearly all of them selected a special branch, a particular epoch, or a favourite style of their own for the object of their investigation, thereby compelling even those who are anxious to study this art upon a wider scale to remain within the comparatively narrow limits of a special subject, forming merely one part of the whole. This, therefore, is the first book in which the modern development of the important art of architecture is treated on a broader basis and in a more comprehensive manner. Here is a passage from the author:—

Numberless books have been written during the last fifty years to illustrate the Classical and Mediæval styles, and most histories include, besides these, the Egyptian, the Indian, the Chinese, and every true style known. They all stop short about the year 1500, in so far at least as Europe is concerned. None venture across the forbidden boundary of the Reformation; so that both the Renaissance and the Revival want a historian in recent times. Few are aware that such a thing exists as the Ethnology of Art, and that the same ever-shifting fashions have not always prevailed as those that now bewilder the architectural student in modern Europe. . . . Extraneous matters and individual tastes and caprices have been imported into the practice of the art to such an extent, that it is at every page necessary to stop to explain and guard against them; and this volume, in consequence, becomes far more a critical essay on the history of the aberrations of the art during the last four centuries than a narrative of an inevitable sequence of events, as was the case in the previous parts of the work.

Whilst forming the sequel of the book to which the author refers, this volume yet stands as a complete work by itself; and as such it deserves at least to be considered, both according to its form and the importance of its contents. For it combines the two valuable qualities of being at once a history and a handbook: so that it can be studied with interest and benefit as the one, whilst it may be conveniently consulted to advan-

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tage as the other. After a delightful introduction, in which the author speaks out his mind undisguisedly, and, therefore, in an equally instructive and refreshing manner, about the state and character of modern art in general, he proceeds to deal with his more special subject by taking a survey of nearly all the more important works of architecture executed in the different parts of the world since the time of the Reformation. Dividing the whole into eleven books, he describes and treats of almost every great building, whether ecclesiastical or secular, in Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, England, Germany, North-western Europe, Russia, India and Turkey, and America—devoting, besides, one chapter specially to the construction of modern theatres, and one to works of civil and military engineering—which latter gives an account of railway-bridges and stations, and of the ferro-vitreous art, or of the buildings commonly called Crystal Palaces. These descriptions are accompanied by more than 300 elegant and really pictorial woodcuts, which materially facilitate the understanding of the author's remarks. Thus, the various forms which modern architecture has assumed are placed before the reader in such a clear order, and are classed and arranged in such a methodical and useful manner, that what at the outset seems but a hopeless maze of inextricable confusion, chiefly distinguished by an almost total absence of originality and character, not only becomes intelligible, but positively assumes an amount of dignity hitherto all but hidden from our perception.

Mr. Fergusson's is also a very honest book. It is evidently pervaded throughout by such a serious yearning after truth, and such a sincere love of the subject, that whatever the author says must not only attract attention, but also command respect. "No work of human hands is perfect," says he, in one of those passages that have a more general application; "while it is also true, that but few honestly elaborated productions of man's intellect are without some peculiar merit of their own; and, on comparing one with the other, it seems as impossible to overlook the merits of the one, as to avoid noticing the imperfections of the other."

Again, we have this remarkable passage:—

Where art is a true art, it is as naturally practised, and as easily understood, as a vernacular literature; of which, indeed, it is an essential and a most expressive part; and so it was in Greece and Rome, and so, too, in the Middle Ages. But with us it is little more than a dead corpse galvanized into spasmodic life by a few selected practitioners, for the amusement and delight of a small section of the specially educated classes. It expresses truthfully neither our wants nor our feelings; and we ought not, therefore, to be surprised how very unsatisfactory every modern building really is, even when executed by the most talented architects, as compared with the productions of a village mason or parish priest at an age when men sought only to express clearly what they felt strongly, and sought to do it only in their own natural mother tongue, untrammelled by the fetters of a dead or unfamiliar foreign form of speech. . . . Any one who has travelled in India may have seen in the present century such buildings rising before his eyes as the ghauts at Benares, the tombs and palaces at Deeg, the temples of Southern India,—and, if he had inquired, he would have found that they were being erected by local masons, men who could neither read, write, nor draw, but who can design at this hour as beautiful buildings as any that ever graced that land. . . . On the other hand, it would be considered sacrilege to meddle with or attempt to improve St. Paul's Cathedral out of respect for Wren; Blenheim must remain the most uncomfortable of palaces because it was left by Vanbrugh; and even Barry's Parliament Houses have become a fixed quantity that no one must interfere with. In fact, the individual is now everything in architectural art, while the age is of as little importance as in poetry or in a picture. . . . It is not difficult to understand that an art that forsakes the real and natural path of development, and follows only a conventional fashion, must lose all ethnographic value; and that those circumstances, which not only give such scientific value

to the true styles of art, but lend such an interest to their history, are almost entirely lost in speaking of the architectural styles of the Renaissance. It is this, indeed, which has done so much harm to the history of this art, and prevented it from taking its proper place as a branch of scientific research. A man who sees an Egyptian obelisk being erected in front of a Grecian portico in Portland cement, alongside of a new Norman parish church, to which they are attaching a schoolroom in Middle Pointed Italian, and the whole surrounded by Chinese and Saracenic shop-fronts, is certainly justified in doubting whether there is really such a thing as the ethnography of architectural art. It is necessary that he should have looked beyond the times of the Reformation—that he should be familiar with those styles which preceded it in Europe, or with those which are now practised in remote, out-of-the-way corners of the world.

It is undoubtedly the feeling here expressed with such graphic honesty which has induced the author to add some chapters at the end of this volume, comprised under the title of "Ethnology from an Architectural Point of View," which, though given in the form of an appendix, seem neither the least interesting, nor the least important part of the work. And it is there more particularly that one is struck with the vigorous power displayed in drawing in a few broad outlines, a bold yet comprehensive sketch—not the less telling, and in the main correct, because it does not descend into matters of detail. These would only serve to encumber and obscure, instead of clearing up the relationship in which the various styles of art have stood to the different races of men by whom they were originated, and of whose genius, power, and taste they form durable monuments. By classing together the various types of art according to the different races of men, the author shows how one is to draw conclusions from the peculiarities of the one with regard to the expressions found in the other, thereby instructing us in what way to decipher and interpret the monumental evidence of the past, in a manner similar to that of the grammarian when he teaches us, by reference to the rules of speech and methods of thought, how to understand the languages and appreciate the spirit of the ancient records of bygone generations.

There may be some to whom the general truths, which the author has not shrunk from expressing, will sound sad, if not severe; but let those who think so only remember that it is not the office of the real historian to be either a panegyrist or a hostile partisan, but only the faithful and dispassionate exponent of whatever subject he may choose to treat. If truthfulness only prevails, even though it be sometimes at the cost of poetical feeling or subtle diction, it is far better that such should be the case, than that the author of a book like the one before us should strive merely to ingratiate himself with the public by smoothing over difficulties. F. A.

#### THE FAMILY OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

*The Princess of Wales: her People and Country; her Religion and Marriage.* (J. Snow.)

*The Princess Alexandra and the Royal House of Denmark. A Genealogy.* (F. Thimm.)

THERE is one class of books the art of making which has been lost in our days. Our genealogical tables are poor things compared with those of a century or two ago. The cleverest man who now handles paste and scissors could not get up such a book as the famous "Royal Genealogies" of the learned Professor Johann Hübner, of Hamburg—done into English by James Anderson, D.D., in the year 1732. In this respectable folio the descent of their serene highnesses the Princes of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, of Reuss-Schleiz-Koestritz, and of a number of other illustrious personages, is clearly traced up to Adam, and even somewhat further. We learn from the first table that "in the year of the Julian period 710, on the twenty-third of October, in the afternoon, Jehovah Elohim El-Shaddai created, or made

out of nothing, the man Adam." The man Adam standing as number two in the list, the inference as to family descent is not a little flattering to the pride of the illustrious princes of Reuss-Schleiz-Koestritz and others. Professor Johann Hübner's learned work was much appreciated during the middle of last century; it went through many editions, and the critics of the time were loud in their praises of the author and his deep researches. It was not till the period of the great French Revolution that this genealogical zeal became extinct under a flood of new ideas and principles. Professor Hübner's and Dr. Anderson's folios now gave way to cyclopædias, popular histories, and dictionaries of universal knowledge, and the world was deprived of the light of "Royal Genealogies." Faint shadows of the once glorious genealogical art, still existing, only serve to show the more distinctly its utter decay and extinction. From grand hide-bound folios of a thousand pages, the genealogical publications have declined to little pamphlets of duodecimo size, stitched in loose covers, and seemingly edited by the nightmares. Two of these feeble booklings now lie on our table. One is a little bit of paste and scissors of only fifteen pages, which traces the descent of Princess Alexandra no further than to "the ancient heroes or seakings," beginning with gentlemen called Kochilaich and Stärkodder, who are said to have lived "in the fifth century." How vague this information, compared with Professor Hübner's and Dr. Anderson's firm assurance that Adam was born on the twenty-third of October, in the afternoon. "At three o'clock in the afternoon," says the first edition; but this stroke of genius has been left out in subsequent books, the Professor having his doubts, probably, whether the clocks of the Garden of Eden kept time always with the church bells of the ancient city of Hamburg.

It is not the only fault of modern genealogies that they are vague as regards dates; they also spring over immense periods of time, every generation of which is carefully linked together in the fine old folios. The task of making our fair and lovely Princess of Wales a "sea-king's daughter from over the sea" is executed in a manner which would have sent the blush on the cheeks of James Anderson, D.D., and his Teutonic friend and master. To carry out the "idea," recourse is had in these poor modern books to chapters, divisions, and sub-divisions which have no earthly connexion with each other, and evidently serve no other purpose but that of fatiguing the reader, and incapacitating him from following the sinuosities of the argument. The road leads from the Scandinavian Erics and Canuts in the most sudden manner to the German Christians and Fredericks, leaving a painful uncertainty as to the possible connexion between the two races. In the larger of the two pamphlets before us the process is facilitated by leaving out the dates altogether, substituting snatches of poetry and quotations from ancient hymn-books. This does very well as long as the reader is treading on mythological ground, but fails when the paste and scissors begin work in modern history, particularly that of the last generations. Here a wonderful confusion begins, and Scandinavian gods, seakings, Oldenburg princes, and dukes of Schleswig-Holstein are mixed in wild anarchy, in which the nightmares get quite the upper hand. Dates are utterly sacrificed on the altar of poetry and mythology, and even well-known names of countries do not escape the ruthless hand of the genealogist. The duchy of Schleswig, or, as the Danes call it, Slesvig, becomes *Slesvig* throughout, and is made an appurtenance of the house of Hesse-Cassel, while Holstein falls to Russia *pro tempore*. Old Professor Johann Hübner certainly managed these things in more artistic fashion, even when connecting the rulers of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen with King David, the Prophets, and Adam.

Quitting the Professor and his degenerated successors, the real history of the family of

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our Princess of Wales is by no means an uninteresting one, though certainly there are no sea-kings, Norse heroes, and other mythic personages in the background. The house of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, to which Princess Alexandra belongs by birth, is a good old German family, and, though quite unconnected with Kochilaich and Stärk-odder, can boast of a very respectable antiquity. Settled in the north of Germany, in flat and rather inhospitable regions, the Counts of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst were, however, not much known in history until, in the middle of the fifteenth century, a stroke of good fortune lifted a member to the throne of Denmark and Norway. The line of ancient Scandinavian Princes of the house of Skiold having died out completely, it became the duty of the Diet of the two countries in the year 1448 to elect another king. The eyes of the popular representatives at Copenhagen became fixed, in the first instance, on Duke Adolphus of Schleswig-Holstein, and the vacant crown accordingly was offered to him. But he refused on account of his advanced age, recommending, at the same time, his nephew, Count Christian of Oldenburg. The latter had no objection to offer, and was thereupon elected King of Denmark in 1449, and crowned ruler of Norway at the cathedral of Drontheim in the year 1450. The realm of Sweden also elected him King in 1458, and in the following year the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein fell to him by the decease of Duke Adolphus. The accession of these provinces, forming the wealthiest and most fertile part of the Danish monarchy, had the effect of keeping the new race of rulers attached to the country of their birth, and preventing them from becoming Scandinavian. This was the more natural as the tenure of the northern throne seemed at the commencement by no means well secured to the house of Oldenburg. Sweden fell off from the crown in the year 1520; and not until after the son of Christian I. had been violently dethroned, in 1523, and his uncle, Frederick I., Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, invested with the purple, did the German dynasty begin to take root in Denmark. It was, however, only in the year 1660 that the throne was formally declared hereditary in the Oldenburg family. The new King Frederick I., who has just been mentioned, must be regarded as the real ancestor of the now reigning Danish royal house, as well as of the ducal families of Schleswig-Holstein. Frederick had two sons, the eldest of whom became his successor under the title of Christian III., while the younger founded a new line—that of Holstein-Gottorp—which, two centuries after, ascended the throne of Russia, through the alliance of Duke Charles Frederick with the daughter of Peter the Great. King Christian III., again, left two sons, from the eldest of whom, Frederick II., the now reigning Danish kings are descended, while the younger, John, established another branch line, that of Holstein-Sonderburg, which ceased to have any connexion with Denmark. The heir of John, Alexander, had five sons, who once more established five new branch lines, two of which are still in existence. These are the houses of Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg and of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg; and it is to the latter, the younger of these lines, that our Princess of Wales belongs. The founder of her family and immediate ancestor is consequently this first Duke of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, or, as originally called, Holstein-Sonderburg-Beck, Duke Augustus Philip. His father having presented him with the domain of Beck, in Westphalia, he settled there, rearing a numerous family, all the members of which were considered to belong to the higher German nobility. Augustus Philip was married three times, his second wife being a sister of the first; which drew upon him much animadversion from the more zealous among the clergy. The family had become Protestant a generation before; but some of the children and

grandchildren of Duke Augustus Philip fell back to Roman Catholicism, and took a violent part in the anti-reformatory movements of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The eldest son of Augustus Philip, Duke Augustus, who married a countess of Schaumburg-Lippe, continued to reside quietly at the old mansion of Beck; but the next head of the family, Frederick William, born May 2nd, 1682, entered the Austrian military service and became a Roman Catholic, after having married a daughter of the Bavarian general De Sanfrée, a man notorious for his hatred of Protestantism. The line of this Frederick William, however, became extinct in the next generation; and the succession of the house of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg devolved upon the descendants of a younger son of Augustus Philip, Ludwig Frederick. The son and heir of this Ludwig Frederick, Duke Charles Ludwig, also became Roman Catholic, after having united himself to the notorious Countess Orselska, the illegitimate daughter of King Augustus of Poland, Elector of Saxony. Fortunately, there was no surviving offspring of this union, and the succession devolved upon his cousin, Peter Augustus, who died in 1775, leaving the family honours to his son, Frederick Charles Ludwig. The latter was succeeded by his son William, born 1785, deceased 1831; and he again by Duke Charles, the present head of the family, and eldest brother of Prince Christian. Duke William, like his immediate ancestors, was a Roman Catholic, but became Protestant towards the end of his life. At what precise time he changed his religious creed we have not been able to discover, as there seems, indeed, considerable mystery in the matter. From an incomplete set of annual editions of the "Almanach de Gotha" in our possession, we learn that in the year 1826 the whole family of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg were Roman Catholic; while, four years later, in 1830, they are described as belonging to the Lutheran Church. The change of religion, therefore, must have taken place in the interval of time between 1826 and 1830.

Some future historian may think it a not unworthy task to write a detailed account of the fortunes of the House of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, destined, as they seem, to eclipse the wonderful ascendancy of the family of Saxe-Coburg Gotha. Should the sister of Princess Alexandra, as is rumoured, marry the heir-apparent of Russia, and the brother become King of Greece, with the crown of Sweden and Norway looming in the future for another brother, and the throne of Denmark waiting to be filled by the father, this will constitute a series of events almost unique in the romance of royalty. Ten years ago the House of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg was utterly unknown in the world, and now five crowns seem to be lying in the lap or within reach of the family, including the diadems of the two greatest powers on the face of the globe. There is only one other instance of similar fortune in history—namely, the matrimonial conquests of the house of Hapsburg in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, which for a moment threatened to subject the whole of the civilized world to the sceptre of the Kaisers. However, the danger passed over as soon almost as it came to be felt; and the chief memorial of it at the present day is the immense private fortune of the Hapsburg family, and a thick and heavy under-lip which has become historical at Vienna. There is little fear of the "balance of power" being disturbed in our days by royal intermarriages; but, on the contrary, such events are likely to tend to the maintenance of general peace between the various nations of Europe. The rise of the house of Coburg certainly has had this effect already to a perceptible extent; and it seems highly probable that similar results will follow the still more brilliant fortunes of the house of Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg.

## LIEBIG'S "NATURAL LAWS OF HUSBANDRY."

*Die Chemie in ihrer Anwendung auf Agricultur und Physiologie.* Von Justus von Liebig. In Zwei Theilen. Siebente Auflage. Erster Theil: Der chemische Process der Ernährung der Vegetabilien. Zweiter Theil: Die Naturgesetze des Feldbaues. (Braunschweig: Vieweg und Sohn.)

*The Natural Laws of Husbandry.* By Justus von Liebig. Edited by John Blyth, M.D. (Waltton and Maberly.)

SIXTEEN years ago, Baron Liebig gave to the world the first edition of his "Chemistry applied to Agriculture and Physiology," the object of which was to develop the scientific principles of agriculture, and especially to draw attention to the exhaustion of arable soils, occasioned by the removal of the so-called mineral constituents taken up by the crops, and to the paramount importance of continually renewing them. In the present edition these views are further developed, and abundantly illustrated by the results of recent observations and experiments on actual field-cultivation. We shall endeavour to present our readers with an abstract of the most important conclusions.

The problem which the cultivator has to solve is to obtain the largest possible amount of food from his land, and, at the same time, to keep the soil in a state of permanent fertility. Now, a plant contains both combustible and incombustible constituents. Of the latter, which compose the ash left on burning the plant, the most essential are phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, silicic acid, potash, soda, lime, magnesia, iron, and chloride of sodium. They are derived entirely from the soil, and enter the plant by the roots alone. The combustible constituents of the plant are derived from carbonic acid, water, ammonia, and sulphuric acid, all of which, excepting the last, are contained in the atmosphere, and are absorbed by the leaves of the plant; they are frequently, however, present in the soil also, and may enter the plant by the roots, as well as by the leaves. As the atmosphere is in a state of perpetual circulation, the supply of the constituents which it yields to the plant is inexhaustible; but with the fixed constituents, which are derived exclusively from the soil, the case is different. If one of these substances is removed from a particular portion of a field, its place is not immediately supplied from the surrounding portions: consequently, a plant for whose growth this particular constituent is essential, will not grow on that part of the field till the deficiency is made up.

Every species of plant, and, indeed, each individual organ of a species, leaves, when incinerated, an ash, the quantity and proportionate constitution of which is, within certain limits, peculiar to that plant or organ—showing that the incombustible, or so-called mineral constituents of the plant are peculiar to itself, as well as the combustible, or so-called organic constituents. The grain of cereals will not attain its due size and maturity without a copious supply of phosphoric acid, nor the straw without considerable quantities of silicic acid and potash; the potato requires large quantities of potash; clover considerable supplies of phosphoric acid and lime, &c., &c. Now the object of cultivation is to give to certain plants and their organs a degree of development which they would not attain in their natural state; it is plain, therefore, that such plants, to attain maturity in the required time, must find within the soil a considerable supply of mineral food, in such a state as to be easily taken up by their roots. It is in the power of readily yielding these supplies that the difference in fertility of soils mainly consists.

Rough uncultivated ground, and soil from the dust and mud of roads, soon become covered with weeds—that is to say, with plants which require but a small amount of nutriment; and, though at first totally unfit for the growth of cereal and kitchen plants, it may, by diligent mechanical cultivation during several years, assisted by atmospheric influences, and the growth of weeds and other easy-grow-

ing plants, be at length brought into such a condition as to produce the plants which it at first refused to bear. Now, as this result may be brought about without adding to the soil any substance of the nature of manure, it is clear that the difference between the soil in its crude and its improved state must consist, not in any dissimilarity in the nutritive substances which it contains, but in a difference of the form or manner in which these substances are diffused through the soil. In a rough soil, consisting of disintegrated rocks, the nutritive substances of plants are retained in a state of combination in which they are not easily accessible to the plant; the potash in a silicate, for example, is firmly held by the attraction of the silica and alumina, &c.; and it is only when this combination has been broken up by the prolonged action of air, water, and carbonic acid, that the potash becomes available for absorption by the roots of plants. In like manner, the lime and phosphoric acid existing in a crude soil in the form of apatite or phosphorite, are inaccessible to plants, till the combination has been broken up and dissolved by the action of water containing carbonic acid.

Now the fertilizing constituents of a soil—the phosphoric acid, potash, silica, &c., thus separated from their original states of combination—cannot remain in it in the state of aqueous solution: for arable soils, when brought in contact with solutions of such substances, withdraw them from the liquid, much in the same manner as colouring matter is removed by charcoal. Diluted liquid manure, of deep brown colour and strong smell, filtered through loose arable soil, flows off colourless and inodorous, and is likewise deprived of the ammonia, potash, and phosphoric acid which it holds in solution. The particles of the soil have, moreover, the power of separating potash and ammonia from a mineral acid with which they may be combined—an action which is greatly facilitated by the presence of lime and magnesia—these bases then uniting with the acid, and leaving the potash or ammonia free to be taken up by the particles of the soil. In this manner, the alkalies and phosphoric acid, and other soluble mineral matters, become uniformly distributed through the soil, not in a state of chemical combination, but retained by a kind of molecular or physical attraction, just as particles of colouring matter are retained by charcoal. In this state of loose physical combination, the nutritive substances are in the most favourable condition for serving as food for plants, and their uniform distribution ensures that the roots, as they ramify through the soil, will be able to find the nutrition which they require. *The power of the soil to nourish cultivated plants is in exact proportion to the quantity of nutritive substances which it contains in a state of physical aggregation.* The quantity of the other elements, in a state of chemical combination distributed through the ground, is also highly important, as serving to restore the state of saturation, when the nutritive substances in physical combination have been withdrawn from the soil by a series of crops reaped from it.

If the ground is left *fallow* for a year or more—especially if it is well ploughed and harrowed—the process of disintegration and diffusion of the nutritive substances goes on, and the soil recovers the power of yielding a remunerative crop of cereal plants. An exhausted soil is, in fact, merely a soil reduced to its crude state previous to cultivation; and the fallowing season is the time in which the nutritive substances pass from one state to the other.

This change is greatly facilitated by the presence of substances which promote the solution of the nutritive mineral compounds. Organic matter, in a state of decay, affords a slow but continuous source of carbonic acid, which, dissolving in the water of the soil, forms a solvent for phosphate of lime. Certain soluble mineral salts, viz., chloride of sodium, nitrate of soda, and salts of ammonia, even in a state of great dilution, possess the power of dissolving

earthy phosphates and assisting in the decomposition of silicates. Such salts are useful in two ways: first, as contributing directly to the nutrition of plants; secondly, by extracting the phosphoric acid, silica, and alkalies from their original chemical combinations, and enabling them to be taken up by the particles of the soil in the state of physical aggregation already described.

By such means a soil may be kept for a considerable number of years in a condition for yielding remunerative crops of cereal plants. It is clear, however, that unless the nutritive substances removed in the crop are restored to it, the quantity of available nutriment in the soil must continually diminish, and permanent exhaustion must ultimately ensue. This state of things may, however, be warded off for a long time by the cultivation of what are called *fodder-plants*, viz., potatoes, turnips, clover, lucerne, sainfoin, &c., alternately with the cereal plants. These fodder-plants are, for the most part, deep-rooting, and strike their roots into the sub-soil, which has not been reached to any great extent by the roots of the cereal-plants, and therefore has not been exhausted of nutriment. These fodder-plants, then, extract from the sub-soil the nutritive matters which it contains; and if, after they have attained their full development, they are ploughed into the ground, or if they are burnt to ashes and the ash mixed with the surface-soil, it is clear that this soil will be enriched with all the mineral substances which they have extracted from below. Now the effect will be exactly the same if the fodder-plants are consumed by animals on the land, and the manure yielded by these animals is mixed with the soil: for the solid and liquid excrements of an animal are nothing more than the incombustible portions of the food which it consumes. If, then, the whole of the fodder-plants were consumed on the farm, and the whole of the excrement—the *farm-yard manure*—were afterwards mixed up with the surface-soil, that soil would become continually richer, as long as the fodder-plants could find any supply of nutriment in the sub-soil.

But, in almost all cases, a very large portion of the food produced on a farm is sold off for consumption in towns; and, unless the excrements of the animals which consume it can be collected and returned to the land, so much of the nutritive power of the soil must be permanently lost, and, unless an equivalent supply of nutriment is derived from some external source, exhaustion must ultimately ensue. Now in all European countries, but especially in England, an enormous waste of nutritive matter is thus continually going on; and it is one of the main objects of Baron Liebig's present work to draw attention to this waste, and to the necessity of preventing it. The following is the picture which he gives of the gradual process of exhaustion:—

In the first period, or on a virgin soil, corn-crop is made to succeed corn-crop, and, when the produce begins to fail, the culture is simply transferred to a fresh field. The increasing requirements of a growing population, however, gradually put a check upon this plan, and compel a steady cultivation of the same surface; a system of alternate fallowing is now resorted to, and efforts are made to restore the lost fertility of the soil by manuring with the produce of the natural meadows. After a time, this expedient begins to fail, and leads to the cultivation of fodder-plants, the sub-soil being thus turned to account as an artificial meadow. The cultivation of fodder-plants proceeds at first without interruption; after a time, longer and longer intervals are interposed between the clover and turnip-crops; finally, the cultivation of fodder-plants comes to an end, and with it the system of cultivation by farm-yard manuring. The ultimate result is the absolute exhaustion of the soil, inasmuch as the means for increasing the produce of the soil gradually pass away from it by this system.

Of course, the progress by which these different stages are reached is extremely slow, and the results are felt only by the third and fourth generation. When there are woods near the arable land, the peasant seeks to turn the fallen leaves to account as manure; he breaks up the natural

meadows, which are still rich in elements of food for plants, and converts them into arable land; then he proceeds to burn down the forests, and to manure his fields with the ashes. When the gradual exhaustion in the productive power of the land has led to a corresponding decrease in the population, the peasant cultivates his land once every two years, as in Catalonia, or once every three years, as in Andalusia.

No intelligent man, who contemplates the present state of agriculture with an unbiassed mind, can remain in doubt, even for a moment, as to the stage which husbandry has reached in Europe. We find that all countries and regions of the earth where man has omitted to restore to the land the conditions of its continued fertility, after having attained the culminating period of the greatest density of population, fall into a state of bareness and desolation. Historians are wont to attribute the decay of nations to political events and social causes. These may, indeed, have greatly contributed to the result; but we may well ask whether some far deeper cause, not so easily recognised by historians, has not produced these events in the lives of nations, and whether most of the exterminating wars between different races may not have sprung from the inexorable law of self-preservation? Nations, like men, pass from youth to age, and then die out—so it may appear to the superficial observer; but, if we look at the matter a little more closely, we shall find that, as the conditions for the continuance of the human race which nature has placed in the ground are very limited and readily exhausted, the nations that have disappeared from the earth have dug their own graves by not knowing how to preserve these conditions. Nations (like China and Japan) who know how to preserve these conditions of life, do not die out.

In this country, a very large portion of the produce of the fields is consumed for the support of our town populations; and, instead of collecting the enormous amount of excrementitious matter yielded by these populations, and restoring it to the soil, we merely think of getting rid of it as fast as possible, and accordingly we cast it into our rivers, where it is completely lost for the purposes of agriculture. To supply the waste thence resulting, we import immense quantities of bones and guano, the whole of which, after passing into the bodies of plants, and thence into those of men and animals, ultimately finds its way into the sea. The time must, however, come when the deposits of guano will be exhausted, and even the supply of bones must ultimately fail: for, as the material which supplies them is derived from the soil of other countries, the productiveness of those countries must in the end be impaired by the continual waste. When this time arrives, we shall be compelled to think of turning to account the sewage of our towns. At present, owing to the enormous quantities of water which we are obliged to mix with the sewage in order to get rid of it, the preparation of manure from it would probably be attended with an amount of expense which would raise the price of manure thus produced above that of guano; but, when the price of this material rises, as it must in a few years, attention will probably be directed to the means of making use of our sewage matter. Fortunately, in the Metropolitan Main-drainage System, provision is made for collecting the sewage in large tanks, where the solid matter will be deposited, so that it may be used, as is now done in Paris, for the preparation of manure; and thus the waste which is now going on may be to a great extent prevented.

The latter part of Liebig's work is devoted to the action of particular manures, especially such as contain nitrogen—a subject on which he is at issue with some of our English agricultural chemists. The point in dispute is, not the utility of nitrogenous food to plants—of this there can be no question—but the necessity of supplying such food to the soil in the form of manure. Liebig maintains, that, as the air contains an inexhaustible supply of nitrogen, which, in the form of ammonia, is taken up by the leaves of plants, and is moreover carried down to the soil in dew and rain-water, a soil can never be brought into a state of permanent exhaustion for want of nitrogen; but that, if the plants

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find in the soil a quantity of phosphoric acid and other fixed mineral constituents sufficient for their development, the nitrogen which they require is sure to be supplied from the air, if not from the soil. It is true that the use of nitrogenous manure often greatly accelerates the growth of plants, and may thus render essential service by gaining time; but it is not indispensable, like the supply of phosphoric acid, silica, potash, and other fixed mineral constituents, which cannot reach the plant excepting by its roots. An abundant supply of nitrogenous manure to cereals and meadow-grasses produces a great development of leaves and other green parts, and gives to the crop, in its early stage, a remarkably luxuriant appearance; but, unless there is also an adequate supply of fixed mineral constituents, this early promise is not fulfilled by the yield of the harvest. Some agricultural chemists, however, among whom are Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, attach greater importance to the use of nitrogenous manure, especially for wheat-crops. In several parts of Liebig's work, the researches of Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert are made the subject of somewhat disparaging criticism; but we cannot help thinking that anybody who has visited Rothamsted, and observed the well-organized system on which the experiments are there conducted, will be disposed to regard them as worthy of more attentive and respectful consideration than is accorded to them in the work before us.

But, whatever opinion may be formed on this and other disputed points, all who are capable of appreciating Baron Liebig's work must admit that its publication entitles him to the lasting gratitude of the civilized world, especially for the clear and forcible manner in which he has directed attention to the progressive exhaustion of the soil in various parts of Europe, and the effect of such exhaustion on the power and well-being of nations. This subject is treated at considerable length in an admirably written "Introduction" to the original work, which, we observe with regret, is not prefixed to the English edition.

Dr. Blyth's translation is remarkably well executed, and possesses the merit—unfortunately somewhat rare in our translations of scientific works—of being written in good English, undefiled by foreign idioms.

H. W.

## NOTICES.

*The Spirit of the Bible; or, the Nature and Value of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures Discriminated, in an Analysis of their Several Books.* By Edward Higginson. Two Vols. Vol. I. (pp. 524), containing the Old Testament; Vol. II. (pp. 528), containing the Apocrypha and the New Testament. Second Edition, Revised. (Whitfield.)—THE first edition of the first portion of this work was published in 1853. In the preface to that edition the author wrote—"This book does not profess to be an exposition of Scripture. Larger and more learned works must fulfil that office, for readers who have more time to spare than I ask from mine. I seek thoughtful and intelligent, but not learned readers. I only aim at showing the spirit in which the Scriptures require to be read and interpreted, received and defended. I wish to give utterance to a thoroughly free-minded and rational belief in them as the records of Divine revelation. Between the perplexing *letter-worship* of too many Scripturists and the sweeping *rationalism* which presumes to deny the possibility of a supernatural revelation, I desire to indicate the ground on which rational Christianity may firmly take its stand, implying the divine origin of Judaism. . . . Surely there is an intermediate position between rejecting the supernatural in revelation and suppressing natural reason and conscience in ourselves. That position I endeavour to indicate." Written in the spirit professed in these words, and declared also in the motto on the title page—"The spirit killeth; the spirit maketh alive"—both the volume then published and its successor have found, during the last few years, "chiefly among Unitarians and their connexions;" and he now publishes a second edition in the hope that, in these days of increased and more widely diffused

interest in theological and biblical subjects, it may be found of use still more generally. So far as we have examined the book, there seems every reason why it should be received with great respect, and with attention even in quarters where there may be dissent from it or from parts of it. Indeed, we think the title hardly gives an adequate preliminary idea of the nature of the book. That title suggests rather an essay or a treatise; whereas the work is a systematic course or compendium of Scriptural criticism and information, popular in style, but at the same time giving the results of learned research and of recent thought both about the Bible as a whole, and about each book of it separately. There are essays, prefixed to each part, on such subjects as "The Religious Value and Significance of the Jewish Literature," "The Inspiration of Scripture," "The Relation of the Scriptures to Natural Science," "The Claims of Christianity as a Divine Revelation," "The Relation of Christianity to Judaism," &c.; but the larger part of the work consists of a digest of such historical information, and such information as to views of critics respecting the authorship of the several books, the difficulties they present, and the like, as many a free and painstaking English student of the Bible might desire to have by him in a convenient and not too bulky form. A good deal of the information is given in the shape of quotation from German, English, and American critics and theologians; but what the writer sets forth in his own name is plain, clear, serious, and—even where the substance is most decided—quite reverent in form. Under the head of "The Inspiration of the Scriptures" we find this affirmation: "The Scriptures the records of inspiration, but not inspired writings"—words which, taken in connexion with the general description we have given of the work, will perhaps indicate sufficiently to any one, wishing to know how the work will fit into the Colenso controversy and the present agitated state of theological opinion in England, what he is to expect. The work, indeed, existed before the Colenso controversy, and was written slowly as a solid, quiet, systematic work, related to no controversy in particular; but there is much in it that will be peculiarly *à propos* to present discussions.

*Joseph Anstey; or, the Patron and the Protégé.* A Story of Chequered Experiences in Life, from Youth upwards. By D. S. Henry. (Wilson. Pp. 388.)—JOSEPH ANSTEY, a poor ragged boy of fifteen, who has tramped from Coventry, and is playing a life for half-pence in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, becomes the *protégé* of Mr. Laurence Foster, a benevolent retired merchant; and this is the story of his education, apprenticeship, and adventures till he becomes a young city merchant, marries, and is rich. The novel, as the author informs his readers, "consists of a variety of sketches in the various grades of society, but mainly in connexion with the commercial class of the community." The City, Camberwell, Camden Town, &c., are the localities; and "Joseph himself is little more than the medium connecting the various incidents." The author seems to hint that, should the reader fancy a thread of autobiography running through the book, but without supposing it to be an autobiography, he would have an idea how the material was got together. He disclaims sensation-writing, and there does not seem to be much of that—only plain narrative, with conversation, and a succession of city characters and city incidents. The style is of a plain, plodding kind, with many sentences after this fashion—"Joseph continued his routine of attending school for above six months, while residing with the gardener, without any satisfactory intelligence being obtained respecting his birth and parentage. All that could be obtained was merely confirmatory of such a family having existed in Coventry, without anything criminatory to report." Syntax like this is met with here and there—"Instruction was his delight, having in early life struggled through the many difficulties which beset genius;" or like this, "So much for this worthy couple, who, having thus lived long and happily together, so they continued." At the end of the volume there is an account of the return of the hero and his bride from their honeymoon trip. "Their first party was a grand entertainment, given to their numerous friends. The preparations made for the ball were very complete, an excellent band of musicians having been engaged for the occasion, so as to give the fullest possible effect to the scene. Among the *parties* invited were Mr. and Mrs. Flint, Mr. and Mrs. Shington, Mr. Welkins and Miss Welkins, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. and Mrs. Vattin, Captain and Mrs. Loughborough, Mr. and Mrs. Black, Mr. Duckett, and a galaxy of youth and beauty,

all acquaintance of Mrs. Anstey and Mrs. Flint." Some readers may like to see a commercial story which ends so brilliantly.

*The Elements of our Christian Faith.* Two Sermons preached in St. Martin's, Leicester; with a Preface on the Creeds. By the Rev. D. J. Vaughan, M.A., Vicar of St. Martin's, and late fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (Macmillan & Co.)—THESE sermons appear to have been published, as is often the case, chiefly for the sake of the preface by which they are introduced. Mr. Vaughan has been led by Dr. Lushington's judgment in the case of Mr. H. B. Wilson, and by the pending appeal against that judgment, to consider the question, How are the Creeds to be interpreted?—and he here lays down the principle by which the meaning of any ambiguous term in the Creeds is to be ascertained. Mr. Vaughan infers from the Articles of the Church of England that the language of Holy Scripture, rather than the supposed intentions of the authors of the Creeds, or the current sense of words in this age, is to be brought to bear upon the dogmatic statements of the Creeds. He believes that the Creeds and the sacred writings throw light mutually upon each other, and that the purpose of both is to bear witness to living truths, which carry with them their own highest evidence. In treating of the Athanasian Creed, Mr. Vaughan points out that the terms in it which excite offence are borrowed from the Gospels; and he claims the right to interpret them according to the sense which sound criticism proves them to bear in the Scriptures. He seeks to give the true Scriptural sense to the terms salvation and eternal life, and cognate expressions. As may be supposed, he declines to accept the view of future punishment which Dr. Lushington has deduced from the language of the Athanasian Creed. The reader will find in this pamphlet a very clear, direct, and devout exposition of the elements of that theology with which Mr. Maurice's name is usually associated, and an attempt to state with precision the grounds upon which the true Creeds are to be affirmed.

*An Introductory Chapter to the History of Scotland during the First Sixty Years of the Seventeenth Century.* A Lecture delivered at the Commencement of the Course of "West-end Lectures," Glasgow, 1863. By James Moncrieff, Esq., M.P., LL.D., Lord Advocate of Scotland, and Dean of the Faculty of Advocates. (Glasgow: James Maclehose; London: Hamilton and Adams. Pp. 38.)—THE able and learned Lord Advocate of Scotland here argues, in a spirit of quiet but convinced patriotism, against that conception of Scotland in the first half of the seventeenth century, pervading many popular histories, which supposes that it was a land of intellectual barrenness and sheer Presbyterian fanaticism. He adduces many facts, and enumerates many names, bringing out quite a different view. But perhaps the chief peculiarity of the tract is that it aims at giving a literary representation of Presbyterianism itself, as it existed at that time in Scotland, more fair and sympathetic than has been common. Scottish Presbyterianism and the Scottish Presbyterians of the seventeenth century have fared rather ill in literature hitherto; and it is, perhaps, significant of a turn of the tide when a man of such public eminence as the Lord Advocate steps forward to say so temperately but firmly.

*Theocritus.* Recensuit et brevi Annotatione instruxit F. A. Paley, M.A. (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, & Co. London: Bell and Daldy. Pp. 158.)—A NEAT and very clearly and prettily printed edition of the Greek text of Theocritus, with footnotes, by the well-known editor of Æschylus, Euripides, and Propertius. Mr. Paley projected such an edition many years ago, but has only now finished the work. Speaking of the abundance of readings of the text of Theocritus furnished by the various manuscripts and printed editions, and of the no less abundance of the critical conjectures, "I have not cared," he says, "to repeat the work done accurately by many, but most fully and diligently by Ziegler in the year 1844, and have thought it better simply to use this abundance for the revision of the text, tacitly accepting, for the most part, the reading that appeared to me the best, and rarely admitting conjectures without warning the reader. This, at least," he adds, "I may affirm, that there is no one verse in the whole author the text of which, the sense, the connexion, and the authority, I have not long and diligently pondered." In not a few quarters it may be an objection that the preface and notes are in Latin, after the old fashion.

*Introductory Text-Book of Physical Geography.* By David Page, F.R.S.E. (Blackwood and Sons. Pp. 193.)—THIS is something more than a school-

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book, or a work giving merely dry facts, to be learned by heart, or otherwise crudely digested. It has been the aim of the author—an aim carried out with the greatest success—to produce a *text* and not a *task*-book; or, in other words, to give a work to be read and reasoned upon, instead of, as is but too often the case, a compilation of unconnected facts to be irksomely and uselessly committed to memory. The little treatise is written in a style clear throughout; it is philosophical, and will be read and studied with advantage by all, whether old or young, who take an interest in physical geography.

*The Boy's Handy Book of Sports, Pastimes, Games, and Amusements.* (Ward and Lock. Pp. 374.)—A CLOSE-PACKED encyclopædia of interesting things for the boys of Britain. The headings of the different parts will give an idea of the variety of its contents:—"Out-door Games and Amusements;" "Gymnastic Exercises, Swimming, and Archery;" "Play-Room Games and Evening Sports, Riddles, Forfeits," &c.; "The Sea-Side: its amusements and pursuits;" "All about Horses and Horsemanship;" "Gardening;" "Cricket and other Ground-ball Games;" "Farm-yard Pets;" "Household Pets: Rabbits, Squirrels, Gold-Fish, Silk-Worms, Guinea-Pigs, and Singing Birds;" "Country Pleasures and Pursuits;" "Chess and Draughts;" "General Subjects." The book seems to come down to the last invention: for Croquet is brought in.

*The Elopement; a Tale of the Confederate States of America.* By L. Fairfax. (Freeman. Pp. 173.)—THE people of Great Britain having, as the author thinks, been prepossessed in favour of the Northern States, and prejudiced against the Southerners and their ways, by novels and tales written by Northerners, he (or she) has used the same means of fiction to help to set things right. The Northerner, or Yankee, is made to figure in all his real hideousness, as the Southerners see it; and President Lincoln is alluded to as "the unfortunate man whose misdirected imbecility" (Mr Disraeli would give a shilling for this phrase) "has brought destruction on that once prosperous and happy country." The story comes down to the time when General Butler—called here "General Felun"—was governor of New Orleans; and the conclusion is that the heroine, Amanda, being chased by a ruffian, is drowned in the Mississippi.

*Union Foundations: A Study of American Nationality as a Fact of Science.* By Captain E. B. Hunt, Corps of Engineers, United States' Army. (New York: D. Van Nostrand; London: Trübner & Co. Pp. 61.)—A STILTED kind of political production, with pseudo-scientific elucidations, the nature of which may be gathered from the following headings in its table of contents:—"Science interprets God's designs concerning man and nations;" "Nations are Organisms;" "Nervous Structure and Cerebratism;" "Secession and its Demands;" "General Structure of the North American Continent;" "North and South Structural Bonds;" "East and West Union Bonds;" "The Problem of Races;" "The Negro Tropical;" "White Men will want all Temperate Lands;" "The Amazon Valley providentially destined for a Negro Empire;" "Three possible Endings of our Contest, agreeing in a Restored Union." What these three possible endings are, we won't tell; those who want to know may get the pamphlet.

*Heraldry, Historical and Popular.* By Charles Boutell, M.A. (Winsor and Newton. Pp. 427.)—It is said that the study of heraldry is increasing in this country, and there seems good reason that it should be so. Material progress has carried us a-head for such a distance that not a few persons are glad to rest awhile in antiquated pursuits, seeking therein a temporary retreat from the turbulence of ordinary high-pressure existence. To all these the study of heraldry cannot but prove a delightful occupation, connected as it is with so many other interesting and important branches of knowledge. The Manual by Mr. Charles Boutell seems well adapted to this end, as it is written for the express purpose of giving information on the general condition and present state of heraldry amongst ourselves. The work is illustrated by above 700 engravings.

*Composition and Punctuation Familiarly Explained for those who have Neglected the Study of Grammar.* For the use of the Artisan and Mechanic. By Justin Brenan. Twelfth Edition. (Virtue. Pp. 119.)—A good shilling's worth. The little book, we think, will be really useful to very many—containing, as it does, a large quantity of judicious advice on style, pointing, and kindred subjects, and enforcing the advice by apt examples.

We should not, perhaps, agree with all Mr. Brennan's rules, but, in the main, he seems a sound teacher.

*Value: Its Nature, Kinds, Measurement, and Methods of Transfer; on the examination of which an unvarying Standard of Value is shown; and also how to Provide an Improved Currency, and to regulate Credit so that Financial Crises may be prevented.* By Joseph Holtney. (Effingham Wilson. Pp. 367.)—THE commercial crisis of 1857 called the author's attention to such events. He was strongly convinced that they are "the results of men's arrangements for trading with each other"—especially of wrong notions and arrangements on credit and currency. "Credit," the author concluded, "is neither here nor elsewhere so important to trade as many think it is." On the subject of currency he found himself drawn to the views of the "inconvertibles"—i.e., of those who do not think gold so necessary; and they led him to try whether he could not find "some better way not dependent upon gold." He develops his conclusions at large in the present volume.

*The Mystery of Money Explained, and Illustrated by the Monetary History of England.* 2nd Edition, with a Preface, containing a Reply to the Objections urged against the Work in the READER, &c., &c. (Walton and Maberly.)—IN a review of this work in THE READER of January 17 we had occasion to describe the above as "a melancholy and lugubrious book," which remark has driven the author into eight pages of closely-printed type. He admits that his book is not cheerful; but pleads in extenuation that "the history of money, like the history of man, is a sorrowful history, with only here and there a brighter spot in it." To this we can only reply by repeating the remark of the late Mr. Henry Drummond upon a celebrated observation of Arthur Young, in reply to a question addressed to the latter by the French Convention. Addressing the House of Commons, in 1856, on Mr. Muntz's Currency Question, he said:—"But I believe that the soundest advice I can give the House is that which Mr. Arthur Young gave to the French Convention in Paris, when he was asked what laws they should pass with reference to the price of corn. Mr. Young's reply was:—'The best advice I can give you is, that you should order your clerk to thrust his inkstand down the throat of every man who talks about corn.' I believe that if the same thing were done now, and an inkstand thrust down the throat of every man who talks about the currency, it would be the very best arrangement you could come to, and you would confer a great benefit upon the country."

*Primeval Symbols; or, the Analogy of Creation and New Creation.* By William Fetherston H., Barrister-at-Law. (Dublin: Hodges, Smith, & Co. Pp. 369.)—MR. WM. FETHERSTON H., in his preface, apologizes that he, a layman, should have written on a subject which would have been better left to the clergy. His excuse, however, is that "the clergy, most properly, have their attention directed, in general, more particularly to the heart, or spiritual part of religion, and less towards the extremities." The italics are by Wm. Fetherston H.; who adds that the task he has set to himself in the "Primeval Symbols" has been "to clear away some of the rubbish from the foundations of religious truth." The book is divided into ten chapters, the second of which is entitled "The Chaos."

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

### ENGLISH.

- AIMARD (Gustave). Pearl of the Andes. A Tale of Love and Adventure. Fcap. 8vo., bds., pp. 373. Ward and Lock. 2s.
- APPLEBY'S Illustrated Hand Book and Price Current of Machinery, &c. 8vo. Spon. 2s. 6d.
- ARMSTRONG (Captain). The Medora; a Tale. New Edition. Fcap. 8vo., bds., pp. 382. C. H. Clarke. 2s.
- BESSY'S MONEY; a Tale. By the Author of "Mary Powell." Fcap. 8vo., pp. 72. A. Hall.
- BIRMINGHAM (J.). Anglicanism: or, England's Mission to the Celt. Post 8vo., pp. xv+166. Richard son and Son.
- BOLTON (M. F. W.). Letter to T. Collyn Simon, Esq., Author of "The Philosophical Answer to 'Essays and Reviews.'" 8vo. sd., pp. 6. Chapman and Hall.
- BONAR (Horatius, D.D.). God's Way of Peace: a Book for the Anxious. Cheap Edition. 18mo. cl., sd., pp. 128. Nisbet. 9d.; cl., 1s. 6d.; large type, Fcap. 8vo., 2s.
- BRENNAN (Justin). Composition and Punctuation familiarly explained for those who have neglected the Study of Grammar. For the use of the Artisan and Mechanic. Twelfth Edition. (Rudimentary Series, Vol. 144.) 12mo., cl. sd., pp. ix+119. Virtue Brothers. 1s.

BROOKE (Nelsie). Gertrude Winn; or, Our Nation's Curse; how it works in homes. A Story from Real Life. Fcap. 8vo., sd., pp. 295. Tweedie. 1s. 6d.; cl., 2s. 6d.

BUCKMASTER (J. C.). Elements of Chemistry, Inorganic and Organic. Second Edition, enlarged. 18mo., cl. sd., pp. viii+267. Longman. 3s.

BUTLER (Samuel, D.D.). Atlas of Modern Geography. New Edition, with Additional Maps, and with Corrections from the Government Surveys and the most Recent Sources of Information. Edited by the Author's Son. 32 Maps and Index. Roy. 8vo., hf. bd. Longman. 10s. 6d.

CLEPHANE (Lieut.-Col. R. D.). Rough and Smooth: a Tale of our Own Times. Post 8vo., pp. xi+476. Edinburgh: Elgin and Son. 12s.

CLOSE (Francis, D.D.). The Footsteps of Error traced through a Period of Twenty-five Years; or, Superstition the Parent of Modern Doubt. 8vo., pp. xii+412. Hatchard. 9s.

COBDEN (Richard), Roi des Belges. Par un Ex-Colonel de la Garde civique. Deuxième Edition. Cr. 8vo., sd., pp. 62. Trübner.

CRAIG (J. Duncan, M.A.). Handbook to the Modern Provençal Language, spoken in the South of France, Piedmont, &c. 12mo., pp. xxiv+105. J. R. Smith. 3s. 6d.

CURTIS. British Beetles. Transferred from Curtis's British Entomology. With Descriptions by E. W. Janson, Esq. 4to. Bell and Daldy. Plain, 18s.; Coloured, 31s. 6d.

DAILY INCENSE: a Course of Family Prayers for Four Weeks; and Prayers for Special Occasions. Contributed by various Friends expressly for this Volume. Fcap. 8vo., pp. viii+239. Nisbet. 3s.

DARLING (Lady). Handy Book for Domestic Service. Seventh Thousand. 18mo., pp. iv+156. Griffin. 1s. 6d.

DÁUMAS (E.). The Horses of the Sahara and the Manners of the Desert. With Commentaries by the Emir Abdel-Kader. Translated from the French by James Hutton. 8vo., pp. xi+355. W. H. Allen. 10s. 6d.

DAY (Thomas). History of Sandford and Merton. (Laurie's Entertaining Library.) With Illustrations. 18mo., pp. xiv+203. Longmans. sd. 9d.; cl. 1s.

DE BURGH (William, D.D.). Messianic Prophecies of Isaiah; the Donnellan Lecture for 1862, with Appendixes and Notes: being a Sequel to "The Early Prophecies of a Redeemer," the Donnellan Lecture for 1859. 8vo., pp. xiii+252. Dublin: Hodges, Smith & Co. 6s.

DE TEISSIER (G. F., B.D.). Village Sermons. Cr. 8vo., pp. viii+378. Macmillan. 9s.

DEVONIA'S EPITHALAMUM on the Marriage of the Prince of Wales. March 10, 1863. By the Author of "Wild Flowers from the Garden of the Soul." Cr. 8vo., sd., pp. 14. Freeman.

DICK AND HIS DONKEY; or, How to Pay the Rent. By C. E. B. Cr. 8vo., cl. lp. S. W. Partridge. 6d.

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HARLEY (George, M.D.). Jaundice: its Pathology and Treatment. With the Application of Physiological Chemistry to the Detection and Treatment of Diseases of the Liver and Pancreas. With Illustrations. 8vo., pp. xviii+136. Walton and Maberly. 7s. 6d.

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HOLDEN (Rev. George, M.A.). Ordinance of Preaching Investigated. Fcap. 8vo., pp. viii+139. Rivingtons. 3s. 6d.

HUGO (F. V.). Commentary on the "Merchant of Venice." Translated by E. L. Samuel. 8vo. sd. Chapman and Hall. 1s.

# THE READER.

25 APRIL, 1863.

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- NORTON (Andrew). Pentateuch and its Relation to the Jewish and Christian dispensations. Edited by John James Tayler, B.A. Cr. 8vo., pp. 135. Longman. 2s.
- PATMORE (Coventry). The Angel in the House. New Edition. Two Parts. Fcap. 8vo., pp. xii—625. Macmillan. 12s.
- PIOTROWSKI (Rufin). My Escape from Siberia. Translated with the expressed sanction of the Author, by E. S. With a Portrait and Map. Post 8vo., pp. xxiv—386. Routledge. 5s.
- QUIVER (The). Designed for the defence and promotion of Biblical Truth, and the Advancement of Religion in the Homes of the People. Volume III. Imp. 8vo., pp. 525. Cassell. 4s. 6d.
- RECOLLECTIONS OF A DETECTIVE POLICE OFFICER. By "Waters." (Parlour Library. Volume 278.) Fcap. 8vo., boards, pp. 489. Darton and Hodge. 2s.
- RICE (Hon. Stephen Spring). Irish Crime. A Letter to Alexander Beresford Hope, Esq., a Proprietor of *The Saturday Review*. 8vo., sd., pp. 8. Dublin: McGlashan and Gill. 2d.
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- TWOPENY (R., B.D.) Lectures for a Village Night-School. Fcap. 8vo., cl. limp. Wertheim. 1s. 6d.
- VAUGHAN (D. J., M.A.) Elements of our Christian Faith; being two sermons preached at St. Martin's Church, Leicester, on March 15 and 22, 1863. With a Preface on the Creeds. 8vo., sewed, pp. 27. Macmillan. 1s.
- VEREY (Joseph). The Guardian Angel, and other Poems. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 128. C. H. Clarke.
- WALPOLE (Lord). Letter on a Proposed Alteration of the Thirty-nine Articles. Written 1751. 8vo., sd., pp. 8. King's Lynn: Thew. Simpkin. 6d.
- WAYLAND (Francis, D.D.) Elements of Moral Science. With Analysis and Questions, by the Rev. George B. Wheeler, A.M. Seventh Edition. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 428. Tegg. 2s. 6d.
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- WILSON'S TALES OF THE BORDERS, and of Scotland, Historical, Traditional, and Imaginative. With a Glossary. Revised by Alexander Leighton. New Edition. Volume I. Fcap. 8vo., sd., pp. vi—280. Manchester: Ainsworth. Ward and Lock. 1s.

## FRENCH.

- ALEXANDRE, PLANCHET et DEFAUCONPRET. Dictionnaire français-grec. Par MM. Alexandre, inspecteur général de l'instruction publique, Planchet, professeur émérite de rhétorique, et Defauconpret, directeur du collège Rollin. 8°, 1014 p. Paris, L. Hachette et Ce. 15 fr.
- ARNAUD. Commentaire sur le Nouveau Testament, renfermant une analyse explicative du texte, des notes historiques et exégétiques particulières, de brèves introductions à chaque livre, et une version française faite sur l'original. Par E. Arnaud, pasteur. Epîtres de Saint Paul. T. 3. 12, 607 p. Paris, Grassart. 16 fr.

- BABINET DE RENCOGNE. Notice et Dissertation sur un Fragment du cartulaire de l'Abbaye de l'Estrepe. Par G. Babinet de Rencogne, archiviste de la Charente. 8°. Paris, Aubry. (Printed only in 100 copies.)
- BARGES. Hébron et le Tombeau du Patriarche Abraham. traditions et légendes musulmanes rapportées par les auteurs arabes. Par M. l'abbé J. J. L. Barges, professeur d'hébreu et de chaldéen à la Sorbonne. 8°, 45 p. Paris, Challamel aîné.
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- BOISSONADE. Critique littéraire sous le premier Empire. Par J. F. Boissonade; publiée par F. Colincamp, professeur à la Faculté des lettres de Douai; précédée d'une notice historique sur M. Boissonade, par M. Naudet, de l'Institut. 2 vols. 8°, 1153 p. Paris, Didier et Ce.
- BOSSELET. Les Elections générales de 1863 et l'Opinion. Par H. Bosselet. 18. Paris, Dentu.
- CARNOT. Mémoires sur Carnot, 1753-1823. Par son fils. Tome 2. 1re partie. 8°, 252 p. Paris, Pagnerre.
- CÉSAR. Commentaires de J. César. Guerre des Gaules. Traduction nouvelle avec le texte, des notes et un index. Par Charles Louandre. 18 Jésus, 480 p. Paris, Charpentier. 3 fr. 50 c.
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- LECADRE. Histoire des trois Invasions épidémiques de Choléra-morbus au Havre en 1832, 1848 et 1849, 1853 et 1854. Par le docteur Lecadre. 8°. Paris, Baillière et fils.
- MATHIEU (Mgr.) Le Pouvoir temporel des Papes justifié par l'Histoire; étude sur l'origine, l'exercice et l'influence de la souveraineté pontificale. Par Son Eminence Mgr. le cardinal Mathieu, archevêque de Besançon. 8°, 691 p. Paris, Le Clerc et Ce.
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- TROGNON. Histoire de France. Par M. Auguste Trognon, ancien professeur d'histoire. 1re partie. La France au moyen âge, 481 à 1483. 2 vol., 8°, 1251 p. Paris, L. Hachette et Ce. 15 fr.

## GERMAN.

- AEBY (Ch.) Eine neue Methode zur Bestimmung der Schädelform v. Menschen u. Säugethiere. Imp.-4. Braunschweig, Westermann. 1 th. 6 n.
- DUPRESNE (J.) Theoretisch-praktisches Handbuch des Schachspiels. Theorie der Eröffnung. u. Endspiele erläutert durch die besten Partien der Neuzeit. 8. Berlin, Springer. 3½ th.
- HOFFINGER (R. R. v.) Beiträge zur Kenntniss der europäischen Heere u. Flotten u. hierauf bezügl. Budget-Verhältnisse. Lex.-8. Wien, Gerold's Sohn. In Comm. Geh. 8 n.
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- TISCHENDORF (C.) Die Anfechtungen der Sinai-Bibel. 8. Leipzig, C. F. Fleischer. ½ th.

## MISCELLANEA.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The directors of the Crystal Palace have issued their programme of arrangements for the tenth season, commencing on the 1st of May. Hitherto the price of season tickets has been either one guinea or two guineas; the holders of the former class being required on

special fête-days to pay half-a-crown extra for admission. It has been determined to issue only one uniform class of ticket, at one guinea, and this is to admit the holder on all occasions. The directors have merely reserved to themselves the right of excepting three days during the year, should they hereafter think fit to give some special fête or fêtes which may render a separate charge for admission on those days justifiable. To the residents in the vicinity of the Palace a season ticket at this low rate becomes almost a necessity. It is intended to inaugurate the new season, on the 1st of May, by a great musical festival, which shall revive the memory of the grand choral effects produced at the Handel festivals. On this occasion Racine's dramatic poem, "Athalie," as set to music by Mendelssohn, will be performed on the most magnificent scale. The orchestra will comprise 196 violins and violas, 90 violoncellos and double basses, 20 harps, and an adequate number of wind instruments; and the entire band and chorus will consist of about 2500 performers. Mr. Costa will conduct, and Mr. Phelps will recite Mr. Bartholomew's illustrative verses. Besides "Athalie," the Overtures composed by M. Auber and M. Meyerbeer for the opening of the International Exhibition will be performed on the 1st of May; and, as the Orchestra will be on the same scale as at the opening of the Exhibition, it cannot be doubted that the effect of these great works in the properly constructed orchestra at the Crystal Palace will be surpassingly fine. Among the other arrangements for the forthcoming season are the Great Flower Show on Saturday the 23rd of May, and the Rose Show on Saturday the 27th of June. On eight of the Saturdays in May, June, and July there will be a series of Grand Concerts. Archery Fêtes will be held on Thursday and Friday, the 11th and 12th of June; and the Royal Dramatic College will again hold its Fête and Fancy Fair in the course of the summer. Last year 2,020,219 persons visited the Crystal Palace.

FROM a Parliamentary paper, just printed, containing the leading facts in the history of the British Museum during the past year, we gather the following particulars:—The total income of the Museum for the year ending March 31, 1863, was £139,395. 8s.; the total expenditure £96,155. 3s. 3d.—leaving a balance of £43,240. 4s. 9d. towards the year just begun. The total number of persons admitted to view the general collections in the Museum (exclusive of readers in the Library) was, for the twelve months from January 1862 to December 1862 inclusive, 895,077—which is an excess of more than 250,000 over the number of the preceding year. June, July, and August were the months during which the throng of visitors was greatest. On the other hand, there was a diminution, for 1862, as compared with previous years, of the number of persons visiting the Reading-room for the purposes of study—the number for 1862 being 122,497, whereas the number for 1861 was 130,410, and for 1860, 127,763. To whatever it is owing—whether or not to a weeding of the admissions to the Reading-room, in consequence of the tetchy complaints that were made of too lax admission—we do not like this fact of the falling-off of readers in the British Museum. It appears, also, that there has been a similar falling off in the number of student-visitors to the Galleries of Sculpture, and in that of the visitors to the Coin and Medal Room. The student-visitors to the Sculpture Galleries in 1862 were 1647; whereas, in 1861, they were 2030, and, in 1860, 2710. The visitors to the Coin and Medal Room were 1544 in 1862; whereas, in 1861, they were 1817, and in each of the four previous years over 2000. The print-room, however, maintains its attraction, the number of visitors to it during 1862 having been 3265; which exceeds the number of each of the three previous years, though under that of the years 1857 and 1858. The number of volumes added to the library last year was 30,362, of which 22,830 were purchased, 6012 acquired by copyright, and 1520 presented. To the manuscript department there were added 696 manuscripts (some of them important and curious), and 583 original charters and rolls. The number of visitors to the Reading-room, for literary purposes, was, as above-stated, 122,497; which gives an average attendance of 419 *per diem* for the 292 days during which the Reading-room was open. The average number of volumes daily consulted by these readers was 4539; showing that each reader consulted about ten volumes a day. The Parliamentary Paper reports changes and the progress of arrangements in all the departments (including the progress of the great catalogue of printed books); and there are interest-

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ing details respecting the acquisitions of last year in the Ethnographical Department, the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, the Department of Coins and Medals, the Department of Natural History, the Special Departments of Botany and Zoology, the Geological and Mineralogical Departments, and the Department of Prints and Drawings. Among the accessions to the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities some of the most interesting are antiquities from excavations in the Island of Rhodes.

THE daily papers, all throughout the week, have opened their columns to chronicle the number of visitors who went to the South Kensington Museum to look at the Wedding Presents of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Among the facts thus conveyed to posterity is the following:—"Monday being a free day at the South Kensington Museum the numbers admitted from ten till ten were 20,467, and 372 babies in arms." The information is characteristic both of our time and our newspaper press.

MIGHT not Mr. Gladstone's proposition for making clubs pay the same license-duties as hotels and coffee-houses suggest a development of the club-system? Might not clubs take the trouble of acting as co-operative stores for their members in such articles as wine, spirits, cigars, &c.? The members of clubs would have better articles, at lower prices, for their own houses, if they might have them from the club-stock, which is usually selected under good management; and it might be worth the while of clubs to undertake the extra trouble of thus supplying their members out of doors—both because, by thus having larger purchases to make, they might deal more advantageously for the club itself, and because they might charge a little extra profit on the sales out of the club, which would go to the club-funds. Many a man at present frets because he cannot have at home such wine as he gets at his club; and some shrewder men do contrive to get the same.

AUSTRALIAN papers state that Mr. R. H. Horne, the well-known poet, is preparing for the press an epic on the heroic journey of exploration and tragic end of the two pioneers of civilization, Wills and Burke.

ANOTHER fine old library, that of the late Mr. John Corrie of Southington, has been dispersed this week by the hammer of Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson. It is not uninteresting to notice the prices fetched by some of the books. Dryden's Works, 18 vols., large paper, brought £15; Dibdin's "Bibliotheca Spenceriana, Aedes Althorpiana, and Cassano Catalogue," together 7 vols., went for £35. 14s.; Clutterbuck's "History and Antiquities of the County of Hertford," 3 vols., a large-paper copy, with proof impressions of the plates, illustrated by nearly 1100 original drawings, 1340 shields of arms, and upwards of 600 views and portraits by celebrated engravers, was sold for £620; while Arthur Collins's "Historical Collections of the Noble Families of Cavendish, Holles, Vere, Harley, and Ogle" brought only 13 guineas; and Dibdin's "Typographical Antiquities of Great Britain," 4 vols., large vellum paper, went for £40. Perhaps the cheapest book sold was J. Horsley's "Britannia Romana," map and plates, large paper, Mr. Harnott's copy, bound in red morocco by C. Smith, which, though extremely rare, sold for £40. 10s. It would be no uninteresting task to collect and compare some of these prices, of various periods, as foundation for a little work "On Fashion in Books."

MRS. BEETON'S "Book of Household Management" is about to be issued in monthly parts, with a series of plates, printed in colours in Paris, by a new process, to which the name of Eidography has been given, representing the form and colour of the various dishes as sent to table.

MESSRS. HAMILTON AND CO. have in the press a new work by "Thomas Tyler," B.A., entitled "Christ the Lord, the Revealer of God, and the fulfilment of the Prophetic Name 'Jehovah.'"

A PAPER of Dresden states that Queen Victoria has sent a photograph of the statue which her Majesty intends erecting at Coburg in memory of the Prince Consort to the magistrate of that town. The statue represents the Prince erect, his right arm slightly extended, in the dress of the Order of the Garter. The figure is to be cast at Berlin. Her Majesty is expected at Coburg towards the end of July, or the beginning of August.

GREAT preparations are being made at Hanover for the inauguration of the gigantic statue of Schiller. King George V. is stated to have himself composed an ode for the occasion, which is to be performed by the royal orchestra. The date of the inauguration is fixed at present for the 9th of May, the anniversary of the death of Schiller.

THE Norwegian poet Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, one of the most distinguished Scandinavian dramatists of the present day, has just finished a tragedy called "Mary Stuart in Scotland," which is about to be performed at Stockholm. The piece is said to be written with a strict regard to historical truth.

THE Russian sculptor Mikeschin, the artist of the gigantic memorial of the thousandth anniversary of the Russian empire, which was some months ago unveiled at Novogorod, has obtained the order of Czar Alexander II. for a statue of his great predecessor, Catharine II. It is intended to place the statue, which is to be of the largest dimensions, in the fore-court of the Palace of Tsarskoje-selo.

DR. ROBERT HARTMANN, the friend and companion of Baron Adalbert von Barnim in his great journeys of exploration through Africa, during the years 1859 and 1860, is preparing for the press the narrative of these travels. The work, which will be accompanied by numerous maps and engravings, is to be published by G. Reimer, Berlin, in the course of the spring.

SOME new machinery for cutting and polishing marble, granite, and other stone was exhibited last week in Edinburgh by Mr. Stewart McGlashan, the inventor.

A CURIOUS little catalogue, containing a list of the books, manuscripts, and incunables presented by Sir George Grey to the "South African Public Library," has been issued at the Cape of Good Hope. The first part contains a large number of objects of considerable value and interest, principally manuscripts on vellum ranging from the tenth to the fourteenth century. Among them is a folio, in rich stamped binding, containing St. Jerome's critical edition of the Psalter, in Latin, and there are several large quartos with sermons by the Venerable Bede, Benedict the Priest, and other Fathers of the Church. Another interesting MS. of the fourteenth century contains the celebrated "Roman de la Rose," illuminated with beautiful miniature paintings, the costumes of which show the date of the work to fall between the years 1304 to 1320. The catalogue says that the readings of this manuscript vary greatly, almost in every line, from the printed edition of the "Roman." A high critical value is said to be attached also to a Flemish translation of Sir John de Mandeville's Travels, a manuscript in quarto, apparently written under the personal superintendence of the author, whose portrait forms the frontispiece. A comparison of the readings of this MS. with the Dutch edition of 1550 and Mr. Halliwell's English translation of 1836 has been commenced, but the result is not stated. The catalogue registers a large number of other rare and interesting works, not the least curious of them a Siamese manuscript, written on palm leaves, the history of which is given in a note appended by Sir George Grey:—"Sir Robert McClure applied to Prince George of Siam, when he was in that country, requesting him to obtain for him a copy of a Siamese manuscript relating to their religion. The Prince said that these were very rare and difficult to procure, but that he would try to obtain one for him. After a delay of several months he sent this manuscript to Sir R. McClure, in fulfilment of his promise. Sir Robert gave it to me at the Cape of Good Hope in April 1861, when on his way home to England from the China station." But the greatest curiosity of all is a collection of Hottentot fables, original in conception, and differing from both those of the East and the West—the production of a South African Aesop.

A LITTLE book, now in its second edition, by Mr. Charles Sulley, proprietor and conductor of the Ipswich Express and Ipswich and Colchester Times, gives an interesting account of the rise and progress of what is known as "The Penny Readings Movement" in Ipswich and its neighbourhood. Mr. Sulley and others, connected with the management of the Mechanics' Institute of Ipswich, found that the system of public lectures, whether by volunteers or by professional and paid lecturers, was proving an utter failure. They looked about for a substitute; and, arguing from the success of an elocution class, and from what they heard of a practice of public readings to audiences of working-men which had been begun in London, they devised a plan of evening-meetings, of about two hours each, to which the charge for admission was one penny, and at which selected bits of prose and verse from good authors—to the number of from seven to ten each meeting—were read by different persons. The first reading was in September 1859; it was very successful; and since then the plan has continued in operation—drawing audiences of as many as

800, and yielding profits. Mr. Sulley gives many details, and also exact practical hints, suggested by the Ipswich experiment, which may be useful to those who are trying—as not a few, it seems, are—similar experiments in other places. Variety, brevity, and simple and popular interest in the pieces read are, he holds, essential; on the whole, a largish mixture of verse answers; humorous pieces are the greatest favourites, and, next to them, pathetic pieces. The cheapest and best way of advertising is to distribute at the end of each meeting a programme of the pieces and readers for next meeting. The London experiment has not been so successful as the Ipswich one; and Mr. Sulley gives what he thinks the reasons for this.

ESSAY-WRITING of a certain sort is running mad. In the "Knickerbocker," or "New York Monthly Magazine" for this month, is an essay by an Edward Spencer, entitled "Considerations upon Men whose Hair parts in the Middle," in which is advocated the idea—forced upon the author, he says, by observation—that, whereas of men in general, or of men of the Indo-European race, there are not probably more than one-tenth whose hair parts naturally in the middle, the proportion of such men rises as you rise in the scale of genius, and is overwhelmingly large among men of the highest order of genius. What next? The author gives the following formidable list of eminent men—well sprinkled, it will be seen, with "some of the most remarkable men of our country, sir"—for whom he vouches as having had or having this divine peculiarity as to their hair:—"Sophocles, Plato, Virgil, William of Orange, Napoleon, Lannes, Massena, Captain Parry, Nelson, Admiral Blake, Cromwell, Paul Jones, Turenne, Commodore Barney, Porter, Ethan Allen, Hernando Cortes, Titian, Raphael, Poussin, Handel, Mozart, Thomas Cole, Galileo, John Kyrle ('the Man of Ross'), Valentine Greatrakes, Robert R. Livingston, John Randolph, Rufus King, Thomas Jefferson, John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, Calhoun, Winthrop, Fremont, Lorenzo di Medici, Burke, Lord Somers, Alexander the Great, Cardinal Richelieu, Demosthenes, Henry Pickering, Cotton Mather, Francis Paris, John Wesley, Dante, Isaac Watts, Torquato Tasso, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Chaucer, Melancthon, La Ramee, Oberlin, Malesherbes, Shakespeare, Joseph Addison, Charles Buchanan, Tom Campbell, Carlyle, George Herbert, Balzac, Moliere, La Fontaine, Sir Isaac Newton, Dr. Jenner, John Dryden, Bacon, Linnaeus, Lessing, Milton, Sir Thomas Brown, Brockden Brown, Rittenhouse, Joseph Hopkinson ('Hail Columbia'), Mason L. Meems, Audubon, Channing, Brainerd, Prescott, Longfellow, Hildreth, Fenno Hoffman, Dr. Mayo, Hawthorne, Lowell, Bishop Percy, John Locke, Boccaccio, Bunyan, Burns, Goethe." How the writer ascertained the fact he vouches for respecting all the foregoing passes comprehension. Portraits will do for some; but, so far as portraits really serve, they show only the hair-parting-in-the-middle habit of certain generations, and the essay they would suggest would be one "On the hair-parting-in-the-middle tendency of certain ages of the world, and on the moral and historical connotations of the fact." We deny the authenticity of the list. We know that some of the men mentioned in it *don't* part their hair in the middle, and that others *didn't*—some of them for the obvious reason that they had no hair atop to part. Look at Shakespeare's bust. But essay-writing is running mad!

THERE has just been published in London a letter entitled "A Word from the North-West to Dr. Russell, some time American Correspondent of The Times." The author is an American, Mr. Andrew Dickson White, who was attached to the American Legation in Russia during the Crimean War, and seems to have travelled much in Europe. While using a good deal of complimentary language to Dr. Russell, and admitting that he was right in some of his criticisms on American manners—right in his complaints of their system of street-conveyance, right in his invectives against part of their hotel-system, and, above all, "sound on the saliva question"—he takes him to task, in a somewhat dashing American style, for the general spirit of his correspondence and for some of his statements. Writing in a strong Northern spirit, he also rates the English people generally through Dr. Russell, and administers many a *quid pro quo* upon British ways and institutions. Two passages are of some literary interest. In one, denying Mr. Russell's statement that there was generally among Americans before the war a violent anti-English feeling, he thus refers to the regard and affection of the Americans—at least of those for whom he more

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particularly speaks—for men of intellectual eminence in the mother-country:—"No Western hamlet so rude that it does not contain admirers of Wordsworth, Tennyson, Dickens, Hughes, and the rest; few pulpits so remote that the spirit of Selwyn, or Kingsley, or Chalmers, or Robertson, or Noel, or Colenso has not reached them; few men so ignorant as not to know when a valiant blow is struck in England for truth or right. A few years since when one of my colleagues died, it was inscribed on his monument as a thing to insure veneration, 'He was a scholar of Arnold of Rugby.' A few months since I saw a strong man in a little interior village ready to shed tears at the death of Buckle, and at the loss America had thereby sustained." Mr. White adds an anecdote illustrating the strong feeling for England prevailing among the six hundred students of one of the great colleges of the Western States. "I remember well," he says, "how, in scholarly discussion of Guizot's idea, that French civilization leads in Europe and has been superior to English civilization, the partisans of England were to those of France as five to one." In the other passage to which we have alluded, Mr. White, commenting upon a description, given by Mr. Russell in his book, of the paintings, works of art, and excellent library he found in one planter's mansion in the South, maintains that this case must be rather exceptional, and that these signs and enjoyments of leisure and culture—collections of books, pictures, &c.—are, despite what might be expected by the too-hastily informed, immeasurably more abundant in the North than in the South. "I could name to you," he says, "inland towns, both east and west, where 'loan exhibitions' of paintings and sculpture have been held, such as no possible combination of planters could have produced. . . . So, too, as to books. I will not lay stress on the fact that the Census Reports show the public and private libraries of the newest Free States in almost every case superior to those of the oldest Slave States. Question the men in London who have acted as agents for Americans in the purchase of the choicest books, you shall find some facts still more surprising. There shall be given you the names of several private libraries in the Free States, each more valuable than all the private libraries of the Slave States together, and you shall find that some of the best of these are far inland. . . . For these libraries, quietly growing in all parts of the Free States, the shops and stalls of Paris, and London, and Berlin have been ransacked. Many a Caxton or Aldine or Elzevir has been carried off over the heads of English bidders to grace some little Northern library. Note, too, the fact that within a few years several celebrated private libraries in France and Germany have been bought for public or private libraries in America, and that these have gone almost without exception into the Northern States."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Anonymous Communications cannot be inserted.)

### THE IRISH CONVICT-SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—In a review of certain pamphlets relative to the Irish convict-system appearing in your number of the 18th inst., I observe that the reviewer, naturally assuming Mr. Gibson's statements to be correct, asserts "that the Mountjoy directors were steadily reverting back to the rational discipline of Pentonville." There is no truth whatever in this statement—no alteration having been either contemplated or made at Mountjoy Prison since my retirement from the charge of the convict department.

In a pamphlet, published within the last few days by Messrs. Ridgway, I have pointed out, on official authority, several other most important mis-statements made by Mr. Gibson.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WALTER CROFTON.

April 22nd, 1863.

## SCIENCE.

### SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY.

THE comet, the position of which we announced last week, we learn from the elements calculated by Mr. Hind, is a new one, and has passed its perihelion, and, already downward bound, will not visit the glimpses of our moon. *En revanche* M. Respighi has discovered another; and as M. Hermann Romberg, who is in command of Mr. Barclay's observatory at Leyton—which, be it

known, contains a ten-inch refractor of great excellence—has obtained a position of it, we shall soon know all about it. M. Romberg's position, taken at 15<sup>h</sup> 22<sup>m</sup> 37<sup>s</sup> on the 19th instant—that is, about 22<sup>m</sup> past seven on the morning of the 20th, was, as follows, in the constellation Pegasus:—

R. A.	Dec.
23 <sup>h</sup> 34 <sup>m</sup> 21 <sup>s</sup>	+32° 35' 6"

the daily motion being very rapid, 8<sup>m</sup> 5<sup>s</sup> in R. A. towards the east, and 1° 43' in December towards the north. The nucleus of the comet, which is visible to the naked eye, is sharply defined, the tail being slightly curved. We shall hope to learn more of this visitor.

THE subject of variable stars, a field in which the amateur and those who even possess only the smallest telescopes may do much good and valuable work, was alluded to at a recent meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester by Mr. Baxendell, who drew attention to an attempt which is now being made to organize an Association for their systematic observation, and presented a chart of the vicinity of the variable star, *R Canis Minoris*. This chart extends over one square degree; the central portion of half-a-degree square includes all the stars which are visible with a 7-inch object glass, and the outer portion all Argelander's stars to the 9.5 magnitude. A list of twelve comparison stars is given, the magnitudes of which have been photometrically determined by the method of limiting apertures. In reference to the objects of the Association, Mr. Baxendell remarked that the importance of a careful study of the phenomena of variable stars will be more than ever apparent when it is considered that all the so-called fixed stars—our own sun included—are supposed to have a general similarity of constitution; and, as several eminent astronomers have doubted whether the emission of light from the sun is absolutely constant, it is not improbable that an extended knowledge of the phenomena of variable stars may ultimately assist us in obtaining a more intimate acquaintance with its constitution and phenomena. We are glad to see the study of variable stars so energetically taken up in England since the departure of Mr. Pogson, and the proposal of Mr. Baxendell should meet with a ready response.

THE balloon ascents which it was decided at the last meeting of the British Association should take place in the spring, and, if possible, during the prevalence of the east winds, have commenced, and have been very nearly very tragically terminated, the balloon being saved from falling into the sea only by the astounding presence of mind of Mr. Coxwell, and a rapid fall of two miles in four minutes, which landed them, as it were, on the very fringe of *terra firma*, rudely shocked, we fear, and with broken instruments. One of the principal subjects of research in the experiments of last year was the determination of the law of decrease of temperature with increase of elevation. The results were, that when the sky was clear, a decline of one degree took place within 100 feet of the earth, whilst at the height of 30,000 feet a space of fully 1,000 feet had to be passed for a change of one degree of temperature; and that between these limits a gradually increasing space was required for a change of temperature to the same amount, indicating that the old theory of a decline of temperature of one degree for every 300 feet must be abandoned. These results have been strengthened by the data already obtained in the two ascents made this year; in addition to these observations, others on the solar spectrum and the chemical rays have been undertaken.

All who have observed the sky at sunset, especially soon after sunset, with a spectroscope, will have found a rapid decrease of light, and therefore shortening of the spectrum upon turning the spectroscope from the most luminous portion of the sky. This observation was made by Mr. Glaisher in his first ascent this year, and, in his record, a decrease of light certainly more rapid than on *terra firma* was noticed. He says, "when the light entered the slit from the sun itself the lines of the spectrum were innumerable . . . when the light came from the sky in the immediate vicinity of the sun the spectrum was shorter; but all lines were visible from B to G, and passing from the sun the spectrum shortened very quickly, and when opposite to sun there was no spectrum—in fact, no light at all." This amounts to another victory for aqueous vapour, as doubtless to this is owing the greater dissemination of light in our atmosphere.

Another observation made is of the greatest value. More lines were observed from the balloon than are generally to be seen on the earth, showing that M. Janssen's "telluric lines" must be received with much caution, and also that we

observe under unsatisfactory conditions in the lower strata of the atmosphere.

For the purpose of learning something of the action of the chemical rays of light, slips of sensitized photographic paper were taken—similar slips, made at the same time, being exposed at the Royal Observatory—and the amount of coloration in one minute noted every five minutes, so as to have some simultaneous observations with the experiments made in the balloon. The paper in the balloon was exposed to the full rays of the sun, and with this remarkable result, that, when above three miles high, the paper did not colour in half an hour so much as it did in the grounds of the Royal Observatory in one minute. Much does science owe to Mr. Glaisher for the registration of facts like these. Let us hope that, for his own and his pilot's safety, and in the interests of science, a more central station will be chosen than the Crystal Palace for future ascents, especially those made during the prevalence of east winds.

THE human jaw-bone—fossil or otherwise—which, as our readers are doubtless aware, M. Boucher de Perthes has discovered, and in the very oldest portion of the gravel beds which yield the flint implements associated with the osseous remains of the mammoth, tichorine rhinoceros, &c., is at present engrossing the attention of all our geologists; and it is not too much to say, that, by many of them best able to form an opinion, it is pronounced to be one of the best attempts at imposition on record. On the 13th instant Messrs. Prestwich, Evans, and Tylor visited the gravel pit of Moulin-Quignon, near Abbeville, and observed circumstances which led them to suspect that a deception had been practised by the quarrymen. It appeared to Mr. Evans, on inspection, that the axes found with the jaw had been artificially stained with the iron deposit of the gravel; for, on being put into water for a time, they looked so much changed that it seemed likely that a good brushing would have brought the whole of the colour away. Moreover, the presence of certain flints lying on a heap in the quarry, which flints had evidently been practised upon, did not escape the experienced eye of Mr. Evans. Mr. Prestwich's examination of the bone and flints led him to doubt the genuineness of the relics on the same grounds. It must not be forgotten that the quarrymen of Abbeville and Amiens began to make sham drift implements as soon as it paid them to do so; and the number of such imitations which have been sold to unwary tourists amounts to thousands. The skill which these men have attained to in imitating the real drift implements is so great, that only the most experienced observers can be sure of their judgment, and, even then, have often to rely more upon the patina and the discoloration of the surface of the flints than upon the shaping. There is a difficulty about the jaw, too, which is very remarkable. Anatomists who have examined it declare it to be a jaw of the *Papuan* type! Others affirm that, indeed, it may be a *royal jaw*, which resurrectionists have unearthed—careless of dignities—from an ancient sepulchre, hard by, of the Merovingian kings. Very fortunately, the antiquity of man needs no such evidence as this; and, as doubtless human remains will ere long be found, we can afford to wait for an incontestable discovery.

Two human skeletons, the conformation of which is, in some respects, very peculiar, have been discovered in brick earth near Chatham, by the Rev. H. F. Rivers of Luton. The frontal development is very low, the supraciliary ridges, however, being moderately elevated, and the frontal sinuses are large. With them was found a ground stone-implement of a triangular form. We understand that these remains, which have been presented to the Anthropological Society, are now in the hands of Professor Busk, whose original researches on the crania of the Stone-period so eminently qualify him for the task of describing them.

THE distinction between the sensibility and the excitability of the nervous system of an insect—the *Dysticus*—has recently formed the subject of some experimental researches by M. Ernest Faivre, who thus sums up the very important conclusions at which he has arrived:—"Sensation and excitability are distinct in the nervous centres, the lower face of the ganglia being possibly the more especial seat of sensibility, excitability being confined to the upper face. Thus, in experimenting on the upper face, a paralysis of movement, with conservation of sensibility, will be obtained; while acting on the inferior portion a paralysis of sensibility with conservation of movement will result. On determining a double paralysis the conducting properties of the ganglion remain the same. Very

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remarkable is it also that the frontal and gastric ganglia are insensible. These facts supply us with striking analogies between the ganglionic chain of invertebrates and the marrow of superior animals. They also support several inductions based upon anatomy and histology, and show how the study of the nervous system of the simplest insects may increase our knowledge of that of the most highly organized animals.

It has long been known that the toughest and most fibrous wrought iron becomes, when subjected to prolonged vibrations and shakings, unwrought, as it were, and assumes a crystalline arrangement of particles similar to cast iron. The condition of railway axles after long use is an instance of this, and numerous unaccountable accidents have been, doubtless, with much truth, ascribed to it. In the last number of *Poggendorff's Annalen* it is asserted that this molecular change is not confined to iron, and that, similarly, old ships' masts, after long voyages, are altered in their structure, the growth-rings being completely separated the ones from the others, and no longer presenting any connexion with the central nucleus.

## LEARNED SOCIETIES.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION, April 17th.** The Duke of Northumberland in the chair.—**MR. BUCKLAND** read a paper "On the Culture of Fish." He urged the importance of the subject of pisciculture, which, he contended, deserves to be considered as a science rather than as an art. Fish are among the most prolific of living creatures, the number of eggs that each one contains being so great that if they were all to be developed the rivers and the sea would soon swarm with them. In a turbot weighing eight pounds upwards of 485,000 eggs have been counted, each one of which, as Mr. Buckland said, if properly taken care of, would become a turbot that now sells for ten shillings. Such a fish would, therefore, be more profitable than the mythical goose that laid golden eggs, and the practical advantage of attending to the culture of fish was plainly manifest. He described the manner in which salmon and trout, more especially, deposit their eggs in the beds of rivers, and the many dangers the spawn usually encounter, which so far diminish the number that it is estimated that not more than one egg in a thousand becomes a matured fish. The plan to be adopted in the culture of fish is very simple, and the apparatus required may be easily provided. The spawn is collected and transferred to boxes containing gravel that has been boiled, to kill the insects it contains, and through the boxes a stream of water, not deeper than an inch and a half, is kept constantly flowing, at a temperature of about forty or forty-five degrees. In the first stage of development, at the end of about thirty-five days, they have no mouths; but each one is provided by nature with a bag attached to the gills, which supplies it with nutriment until further advanced in growth. When further developed they are placed in ponds and fed. In England the food given to them is liver ground very fine; but in France, Mr. Buckland said, they are characteristically fed with frogs. When sufficiently advanced to provide their own food the fish are introduced into the rivers to take care of themselves, and to repay, when afterwards caught, for the pains bestowed on them in their infancy. In this manner 40,000 fish, comprising salmon, trout, greyling, and chad, were put into the Thames last year; and, as the cost of rearing them is not much more than a farthing each, if only a small proportion grow up and come back to be caught, they will repay the expense. In France the rivers have been stocked with as many as six millions of fish of various kinds. One of the problems which the pisciculturists are now engaged in solving is the introduction of salmon into the rivers of Australia; and it is confidently expected to be accomplished by packing the eggs in ice. Mr. Buckland showed some eggs of salmon that had been kept alive in ice long enough to perform the voyage to Australia; and he had no doubt that in a few years the rivers of Australia would be stocked with salmon from this country. He explained the manner in which the eggs and embryo fish are sent from one part of Europe to another, and he showed a bottle full of minute Swedish salmon which he had received within the week, some of which were caught, and exhibited great activity when displayed on a screen with the electric lamp. In noticing the great wariness of trout, Mr. Buckland said there is a well-known trout now in the river at Hampton which anglers have for a long time vainly attempted to catch,

and they report it to be so sagacious as to know the name of every maker of tackle that is used in the Thames. It has been observed during the culture of fish that not unfrequently two fish are contained in a single egg, and they are joined together near the middle, like the Siamese twins. A specimen of this kind Mr. Buckland had been so fortunate as to procure alive for exhibition in the lecture-room, each fish being distinct in every part but at the point of junction.

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, April 14th.** John Hogg, Esq., in the chair.—**THE REV. Churchill Babington, B.D.**, read a paper, in which he gave an account of a collection of Greek inscriptions recently procured by Captain Spratt, R.N., during a survey of a part of the coast of Crete. Mr. Vaux read a paper by D. E. Colnaghi, H.B.M. Consul, Bastia, "On some Ancient Ruins near Missolonghi." Mr. Vaux also communicated some very interesting letters from Mr. S. L. Taylor, the well-known author of the "Antiquities of Rome," with respect to his discovery on June 3rd, 1818, of the famous lion at Cheronæa, which was erected in commemoration of the Thebans who fell in the battle at that place in B.C. 338 with Philip of Macedon. This lion (a cast of which has been lately sent to the British Museum) is fully described in Pausanias; but, curiously enough, has been so covered with *detritus*, washed down from the adjacent mountains, that Dodwell, Gell, and Leake sought for it in vain. The greater part of the lion is still preserved *in situ*. Mr. Vaux, finally, communicated a paper by James Yates, Esq., F.R.S., "On a volume lately acquired by the British Museum, and containing a Treatise on Geography, compiled from Strabo, Arrian, Ptolemy, &c., with three rude maps of the fifteenth century."

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, April 20th.** The Right Honorable Holt Mackenzie in the chair.—A PAPER "On the Extent, Construction, and Cost of Railways in India," by J. C. Marshman, Esq., was read by that gentleman.

**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, April 21st.** John Hawkshaw, Esq., President, in the chair.—THE paper read was "Account of the Cofferdam, the Syphons, and other works, constructed in consequence of the failure of the St. Germain's Sluice of the Middle Level Drainage," by Mr. Hawkshaw, President, Inst. C. E.

**THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.**—The Council of the Archæological Institute have decided on holding their congress this year in the city of Rochester; and the arrangements to make the meeting one of the most attractive ever held are proceeding most satisfactorily. The meeting will be under the patronage of the leading nobility and gentry resident in Kent and the adjoining counties. The corporation of Rochester have placed at the disposal of the institute several of the public buildings in the city, in which to hold their meetings; and the large hall at the Corn-exchange will be appropriated for a museum, in which the collection of antiquities and other objects of interest will be exhibited. The congress will be held during the last week of July.

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, APRIL 27th.

**GEOGRAPHICAL**, at 8.30.—Burlington House.  
**MEDICAL**, at 8.30.—32a, George Street, Hanover Square.  
**INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES**, at 7.—12, St. James's Square. "On some of the various Methods proposed for the valuation of the Liabilities of the Life Insurance Companies," T. B. Sprague, Esq., M.A.  
**GEOGRAPHICAL**, at 8.30.—Papers to be read. 1. "Visit to Ode, the Capital of the Hebu Country, Western Africa," Captain Bedingfield, R.N., F.R.G.S. 2. "Explorations of the Elephant Mountains, &c., in Western Africa," Captain R. Burton, F.R.G.S., H.B.M. Consul at Fernando-Po, &c. 3. "Travels in Equatorial Africa (Gaboon, Corisco, &c.)," W. Winwood Reade, Esq. 4. "Notes on Madagascar," Lieut. Oliver, R.A.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28th.

**MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL**, at 8.30.—53, Berners Street, Oxford Street.  
**ROYAL INSTITUTION**, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On Sound," Professor Tyndall.  
**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**, at 8.—25, Great George Street, Westminster. 1. Discussion upon Mr. Hawkshaw's Paper on "The Middle Level Drainage." 2. "The Charing-Cross Bridge," Mr. Harrison Hayter, M. Inst. C.E.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th.

**ZOOLOGICAL**, at 1. Anniversary.—11, Hanover Square.  
**LONDON INSTITUTION**, at 12. Anniversary.—Finsbury Circus.  
**SOCIETY OF ARTS**, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30th.

**ROYAL**, at 8.30.—Burlington House.  
**ANTIQUARIES**, at 8.30.—Somerset House.  
**ROYAL INSTITUTION**, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On Geology," Professor Ansted.

FRIDAY, MAY 1st.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION**.—Albemarle Street. At 2.—Annual Meeting. At 8.—"On Japanese Art," John Leighton, Esq., F.S.A.  
**ARCHÆOLOGICAL**, at 4.—20, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East.  
**PHILOLOGICAL**, at 8.—Somerset House.

SATURDAY, MAY 2nd.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION**, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On the Science of Language," Professor Max Muller. Second Series.

## ART.

### EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.

THE Seventh Exhibition of Female Artists cannot be considered as an advance upon preceding ones. Making every allowance for the disadvantages under which ladies undoubtedly labour who desire to devote themselves to the art of painting as a profession, we are still unable to say that the staple of this Exhibition is in any degree better than the average of amateur work. To compare it with the late Amateur Exhibition in Suffolk Street would hardly be fair, as that Exhibition was enriched by the presence of many admirable works by clever artists, while the works of amateurs of both sexes contributed to its formation. Still we are reminded of the weaknesses of that Exhibition and not of its strength, and are compelled to accept, as the excellence of this display, much that we should have passed over in that.

The difficulties in the way of becoming an expert in so difficult an art as painting, are well nigh insurmountable. Except in very rare and notable instances, no woman has overcome them. Rosa Bonheur, of course, will at once occur to every one as the living example of an educated artist. To the late Mrs. Wells we might accord a higher intellectual place; but, in technical qualities, in the power of expressing on canvas her thoughts, Rosa Bonheur has no equal. Something of the teaching of which her work bears evidence may be seen in the works of the foreign contributors to this Exhibition. Mesdames Jerichan and Lindgren give evidence of careful training of knowledge in advance of that as yet acquired by the general body of contributors. "A Girl Tending Cattle—Dalecarlia, Sweden" (161), by Madame Lindgren, may be noted as a good example of the application of acquired knowledge to the subject in hand. By our own countrywomen we may see more thoughtful work than this; but we shall find them almost invariably deficient in the power of adequately representing the facts before them. A vast amount of study, hard fagging, and many sacrifices are necessary before any very serious criticism can be applied to the Exhibitions of this Society. In no unfriendly spirit do we say this. The Society has now entered upon the field of competition with other recognised Exhibitions, and it is better it should fully appreciate its position in relation to them than that it should be treated with the conventional tenderness, generally accorded to ladies and to amateurs.

The Exhibition contains specimens in oils and water-colours; the water-colour drawings, upon the whole, being the best. One of the most meritorious oil-pictures is by Miss Kate Swift, "Saying Grace" (158). There is character in the face of the old woman, and a natural manner in the action of both woman and child. The mother and sisters of this lady are both exhibitors—the contributions of Mrs. Swift being portraits of no very high class. Mrs. Backhouse has sent four cleverly stippled figures, of which (98) "I'm Coming with the Dinner" is the most freshly-coloured in the room. Miss Bouvier repeats the subjects, and with them the faults with which we have long been familiar in her father's works. Mrs. Paul Nafel, who is really a clever young artist, and is well directed by her clever husband, has scarcely done herself justice in the "Study on the West Coast of Guernsey" (14). The figure of the girl is not well-drawn; the sky and background are the most creditable parts of the picture. Miss Margaret Gillies contributes but one picture, which tells to advantage in its present company.

We naturally look for, and certainly find, something better among the landscapes. Miss Rayner's street-scenes are clever and dashing; but she unfortunately sees through her father's spectacles, and dares not trust her own vision. Thus, we at once know, without turning to the catalogue, that her drawings must be the work of a pupil of Mr. Rayner's; still they are among the best in the Exhibition. We would draw attention particularly to "The House of John Knox, Edinburgh" (8), and to "Bridge Street, Chester" (51). Miss Isabella Jones contributes two clever sketches, though somewhat unpleasantly reminding us of similar sketches by Callow; the best of which is the "Kornmarkt, Lucerne" (35). Miss Gastineau, who inherits a well-known name, gives proof also of some inherited ability in her drawing of "Loch Leven, Argyllshire" (33). Miss C. F. Williams has a charming little "Landscape near Burnham, Bucks" (157). Mrs. Oliver is an established

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artist, and her pictures all show a practised hand. She is a large contributor, having eight works in the room; "Wargrave on the Thames" (82) we prefer, but she has subjects in Wales, in Germany, and in Belgium. The most careful and natural landscape-study in the room is hung on one of the screens—the work of Mrs. J. W. Brown—"The Strath-Braar Hills, Perthshire" (245). This little study is free from conventionality, and truly painted, with careful thought and study; but perhaps the meed of praise for the best landscape, as a picture and work of art would be given to Mrs. Folingsby, for her composition "Die Hohe Campe, Bavaria" (162). We recognise in this Exhibition the works of several well-known amateurs; especially those of Miss Blake and Mrs. Robertson Blaine.

Among the still-life pictures we find some of the most graceful, agreeable studies in the Gallery. We all know the delightfulness of Miss Lane's drawings of flowers. As far as they go, they are unsurpassed by anything else of their kind. Miss M. L. Oakley's drawing, "Freshly Gathered" (71), deserves great praise. There are other good studies of birds, fish, &c., in the Exhibition.

In taking leave of the Gallery, we do so in the hope that some names, now unrepresented on its walls, may be found eventually in its ranks. At present, the Society does not fairly represent the female artists of England. There is better work done by women than any to be found here; and the accession of these ladies will do more to strengthen the hands of their sisters than any favourable criticism whatever.

## ART-TEACHING ON THE CONTINENT.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—I am delighted to see that some observations of mine, on the subject of Art-teaching in England, have called forth a letter from the clever author of a really original book. I am also very happy to think that Mr. Hamerton agrees with me that Art-teaching in England is at present very deficient, and that the practical experience and influence of our leading painters, if brought to bear upon its acknowledged deficiency, would probably improve our English art, and elevate incalculably the whole tone of the profession.

My object in the article in question was chiefly to call attention to the undisputed fact that a lower art-education prevails amongst us than that which is in force on the continent. I have no desire to see an importation of the French *Atelier* system, which, as it existed in Paris some fifteen years since, I am pleased to believe could never take root in London. The *Atelier* of Paul Delaroche was as much infested by howling fools and idlers as the one in which Mr. Hamerton attempted to study. Their outbreaks, though they only occurred when the model was resting, were frequently disgraceful to the actors, as well as most trying to the patience of the well-conducted; but I am bound to say that, if absolute silence did not reign when the school was at work, no student was ever molested or interrupted in his work. The master visited the *Atelier* twice or three times a week, and remained from six o'clock till eight. He sat down in the seat of every pupil without exception. From those of many he would rise in a moment with an expression of extreme dissatisfaction, or the words, "Vous n'avez pas travaillé," and pass on to those who were really at work. Wherever he detected a spark of genius or earnest effort in a student, his manner changed, a real sympathy animated him, and he would encourage him to persevere, and carefully direct the course of his study. He would tolerate no slowness, no sketchiness, no prettiness, that was intended to improve upon the model. He desired the student accurately to keep to the fact, however ugly in his eyes it might be. Until he could draw well from the antique, he was not allowed to draw from the life; and when, the master thought him fit for it, he was directed to draw from the living model with the same severity, and the same close attention to fact, as in his previous study from the antique. On certain days the more advanced pupils submitted to the master painted studies and compositions of figures; and on one day in every week his private *Atelier* was open to every student who chose to go to him and consult him upon any points connected with his practice, or to take his advice upon any work he might have in hand. These were enormous advantages. To set against them there were serious drawbacks. The chief of these were the general bad behaviour and scandalous outbreaks of a large number of idle and purposeless young men. It was after one of

these outbreaks that Delaroche refused to enter the *Atelier* until full satisfaction had been given for the outrage to which certain new-comers had been subjected; and it was only when the students proceeded to his private house in a body to apologise and express regret for what had occurred that he consented to return and direct them as before. The chief want in the school was an authorized person to keep order during the hours of study; there was no one to rule the black sheep. If the *Atelier* of Paul Delaroche was profitable to him, his scrupulous performance of his duties was still more honourable to him. He took an interest in the art of his country, and in the right teaching of those who were to maintain its reputation. Without declaring that the profits of his *Atelier* were indifferent to him, I do not believe he started it as a money-speculation. He was utterly above that. Nor, indeed, by any great French painter, can the *Atelier* be looked to as a source of large profit. The smallness of the fees precludes the thought of adequate remuneration, except in such cases as that mentioned by Mr. Hamerton, when a "celebrated painter left his pupils to themselves without once going near them for six consecutive months." But he may have a more honourable and worthy object of ambition—viz., in Mr. Hamerton's words, "to become the source of a powerful personal influence, radiating over the whole profession, and incalculably elevating its tone."

I wish, however, your readers to observe, that at least some French painters do take a personal interest in the teaching of the French school. I do not wish, and should be the last to recommend that our leading painters should open *Ateliers* as money-speculations; neither do I think it possible that any great and thoughtful painters, "should," as Mr. Hamerton proposes, "do all their work in the centre of vast studios, surrounded by numbers of pupils, answering all their questions, encouraging rational conversation about the art and all that relates to it, but sternly repressing schoolboy noise and chaffing." The French system may have grave faults; but it has not the fault of Mr. Hamerton's proposal, which would be declared utterly impracticable by every painter in the country whose position indicates him as a teacher and guide.

Mr. Hamerton admits the pre-eminence of the French painter in the technical qualities of the art, and instances his superiority in "handling," which, he says, "is less owing to his *Atelier* system than to a general love of masterly style for its own sake." But where does he learn to draw, to compose, and to colour?

"A general love of masterly style" would never lead him to proficiency in these acquirements, did not his *Atelier* system come to his aid. The presence of a masterly style is characteristic of French art, as its absence is also characteristic of our own. The cause of this distinction is the subject for inquiry; I shall be too happy if the important subject now broached in your columns should be thoroughly discussed. French teaching has given to us a Cross and an Armitage. Ford Madox Browne was educated in Belgium, Cave Thomas in Munich. Have we ever found Frenchmen, Belgians, or Germans, learning their art amongst us? We go to them, they do not come to us. Why? In the hope that this inquiry may lead to a fuller consideration of the whole subject by those who, like Mr. Hamerton, are able to speak with authority,

I am, Sir, yours truly,

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION.

## MUSIC.

## HISTORICAL CONCERTS.

THE History of Art, in many of its branches, and in none more than in music, has yet to be written. The only histories, so called, of music known to ordinary readers, are, even for the periods which they comprise (and most are now out of date), miserably incomplete. Whether the world will ever be lucky enough to find a writer having the endowments requisite for the great task of chronicling the rise and progress of the most ethereal of the arts, is more than doubtful. Such a task would demand a combination of qualities, which it is almost vain to hope for. He who would write the history of music should have, besides the common, or rather uncommon, qualifications of an ordinary historian, keen poetical sensibilities and thorough technical knowledge. He should be at once a musician and, in the larger sense of the word, a poet. Also, he should have unbounded industry. Such a one

may appear; but a combination of the merits of a Ruskin, a Sterndale Bennett and a Jahn, is not a thing to be reckoned on. It is some consolation, however, to remember that the best of writing can never be much more than a commentary on what musicians have done. The art must be its own interpreter; and the best way to make history of it will be to produce, in an orderly manner, such works as announce the several stages through which it has passed. What painting and sculpture have done is best recorded, not in books, but in historical galleries. What a systematic arrangement of pictures is to the student of art, a historical concert is to the lover of beautiful music. Some useful attempts in this direction have been made recently. The "Mozart" and "Beethoven Nights" at our London Popular Concerts (begun by Jullien), and the courses of Beethoven given at Manchester by Mr. Hallé have been of the nature of historical readings. A more systematic and thorough adoption of the same idea is seen in Mr. Ernst Pauer's Historical Pianoforte Performances. All lovers of good music, and all who honour an intelligent and serious devotion to art, should take note of these most interesting series of concerts. Mr. Pauer is trying to set forth the history of pianoforte music and of the pianoforte by devoting successive afternoons to selections from the works of the various schools. The blending of "instruction with entertainment" usually results in the instruction becoming a vanity and the entertainment a bore. This enterprise is an exception to the rule. The only fault it has is that Mr. Pauer attempts rather too much in the time. The only defect of his last Monday's programme (which is here given, as furnishing the best account of what the readings are like) was its length. It was thus arranged:—

## PERIOD THE FIRST, 1620—1720.

Toccata	Froberger.
Sonata (No. 3) in F major	Wagenseil.

## PERIOD THE SECOND, 1720—1790.

Variations	Haydn.
Sonata in F major	Mozart.

## PERIOD THE THIRD, 1790—1825.

Grand Sonata in E flat (Op. 7)	Beethoven.
Fantasia (Op. 18)	Hummel.
Andantino Quasi Allegretto (Op. 48)	Ries.
Allegro Molto Vivace	
Andante (Con moto ma serioso), (Op. 57)	Czerny.

## PERIOD THE FOURTH, 1825 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

Impromptu (No. 3, Op. 142)	Schubert.
Two Characteristic Studies (Op. 70, Op. 95)	Moscheles.
"Ave Maria" de Schubert	
"Rhapsodie Hongroise" (No. 8)	Liszt.
Romance (No. 2, Op. 41)	
Les Capricieuses (Op. 64), Valses de Concert	Thalberg.

This was a good opening to the course, but there was matter in the list for two concerts. To dwell on its features in detail would take more space than is here to spare. The specialties of each composer are touched upon with excellent judgment in the little book of notes and biographies which Mr. Pauer prepares for each performance. His writing in these excellent shillings worths, is intelligent and suggestive, and, like his playing, carries with it proof of much earnest study. The task of setting before his hearers a *conspectus*, however summary, of a field of work so vast as that of pianoforte composition, is one which could be attempted only after much research and thinking. These Mr. Pauer has clearly given to it. His playing is of the sort best fitted for the rendering of a large range of compositions in various styles. It is free from any of the obtrusive idiosyncracies which mar the performances of some other really great players. It is clear, decided, and rhythmical; and has about it a certain ease and breadth, which show that the mind of the player is dwelling not on particular bars and notes, but on the composition taken as a whole. To students, such a style is the best possible example, as the opportunity of making acquaintance with a wide range of music is in the highest degree instructive. It is in such ways that one learns how to trace the golden thread of beauty running through the many-patterned mannerisms of different styles, peoples, and periods, and to recognise a true inspiration when it comes in low but genuine accents from men *not* of the highest rank in the hierarchy of genius. Such lessons expand infinitely the range of our enjoyments; and it is on this account that Mr. Pauer's well-considered plan deserves a welcome and our thanks. Perhaps his example may be followed in reference to other sorts of music. They have Historical Symphony Concerts in Germany; why might not one of our great societies try an experiment of the sort? Good music being always pleasant, a little method in the manner of its presentation could not make it otherwise.

# THE READER.

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## THE OPERAS.

THE presentation of Mdle. Carlotta Patti to an English audience, in some little stage concerts arranged for this purpose by Mr. Gye, has been the chief incident to be noted in connexion with Covent Garden this week. The young lady's advent has been duly heralded; though, in accordance with Mr. Gye's judicious custom, not by the management. As she has been proclaimed a phenomenon, and in truth is one, it is as well to say what are the points which make her singing remarkable. She has a soprano voice of extraordinarily high pitch, very pure and fresh, and well-trained. It is not, apparently, of any great compass (she uses no low notes), and certainly has no peculiar beauty of tone. Dividing women's voices, as to quality, into two classes, the keen, brilliant, and penetrating (of which the younger sister's is the most obvious type), and the sweet, full, and liquid (the class represented by Mdme. Goldschmidt, Clara Novello, and Louisa Pyne), we must place her among the former. Her tones are not liquid and soft. They may rather be called piercing. Her vocalization is easy, brilliant, and correct. This, with a compass reaching upwards to G "in alt," of course enables her to astonish her audience. But it cannot be said that there is any special charm in her singing. It is merely a case of transposition. Her performance is equivalent to that of a well-trained light soprano, shifted say six notes up the gamut. She finishes off a song ("Oh, luce di quest'anima," for example) with a dashing shake on D flat as easily as an ordinary singer would do the same on F or G, and tosses out of her throat the quick *staccato* passages in the *bravura* of the "Queen of Night" (*Zauberflöte*) as freely as if the high F were one of her most accustomed notes. In America she has played such parts as *Lucia*, *Amina*, and *Marta*; but it is understood that here she will appear only in concerts, a slight lameness being an obstacle to her success as an actress. Her manner of singing is as different as possible from her sister's. Instead of the inexhaustible vivacity of the latter, she shows a degree of calm imperturbability which is almost amusing. In a song of the most exuberant gaiety, like that quoted from "Linda," or the most rattling piece of comedy, such as the duet with the quack-doctor in "L'Elisir," she is as impassive as a musical-box. Mdle. Carlotta Patti is, in short, a phenomenon—a Blondin, or Blondinetta, of song—and will no doubt, as such, draw, and astonish, immense audiences. More, as yet, does not appear.

At the concert which introduced this young lady Herr Formes also made his bow, after an absence of some time. It is scarcely necessary to add that his song was "Qui sdegno." Mdle. Fricci, who played *Valentine* last year, has appeared as *Norma*. The English public of this generation, wedded as it is to tradition, will probably never cordially welcome any *Norma* after Grisi. Mdle. Fricci was recalled after every act, but did not seem really to move her audience. Her acting is spirited; but her vocalization has too many of the modern faults to stand the inevitable comparison with that of her great predecessor. M. Naudin was a better *Pollio* than is often seen. The nasal quality of his voice, however, and his anti-Italian method of producing it, forbid his rising to anything more than a mediocre position on our stage. Signor Caffieri, the new tenor, appeared on Thursday night as *Arnold* in "William Tell," with Mdle. Battu as *Mathilde*. Our account of this must be deferred.

AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE the operas have been "Il Trovatore," "I Puritani," "Lucia," and "Lucrezia." A *Ballet* in four tableaux, has also been produced, called "La Farfaletta." As there are, or are supposed to be, still some people who care about ballets, it is proper to state that the star dancer, Mdle. Ferraris, is one of the skillfullest of her profession, and that the piece is not less gorgeous nor less silly than such productions are represented to have been in the so called palmy days of other Haymarket dynasties. Mdle. Titiens' *Lucia* and Signor Guiglini's *Edgar* are impersonations which it would be hard to praise too highly. Allowing for some want of vocal finish on the one side, and of dramatic freedom on the other, the performance of both is throughout magnificent. They sing the scene of the "lovers' vows" at the close of the first act (to quote only one example) with a spirit and an *entrain* which are quite irresistible.

## THE MUSICAL SOCIETY.—A NEW SYMPHONY.

THIS Society is doing a wise thing in occasionally bringing out new works by contemporary musicians. Mynheer Silas' symphony, which was pronounced good at the trial some

weeks ago, stood well the test of a full concert performance on Wednesday evening. It is a right worthy and excellent piece of music, showing a degree of power which the chamber compositions of its author scarcely betokened the existence of. It has considerable individuality: it is no mere result of impressions of other works, no echo of Mendelssohn or Spohr. It opens with a melodious *allegro*, built on clear and tuneful themes, the second subject being singularly winning. This is followed by a freely-stepping *andante*, which is both beautiful as a whole, and includes several effective points. One of these is a little hymn-like strain, recurring more than once, allotted to the wood-wind instruments, and vigorously replied to by the full band. The *scherzo* is enlivened by a charming little horn trio—a very happy bit of fancy. There is a phrase in the *finale* which sounds a little common, and the treatment of which involves some rather unpleasantly violent contrasts. With this exception, the style of the whole work is remarkably chastened. Mynheer Silas must either have a strong native gift of melody (that most precious of all endowments), or he has the happy art of finding sweet tunes by selection and correction, as well as that of weaving them into a whole, the characteristics of which are balance and unity of structure. The audience of Wednesday night will expect more from a pen such as this. They expressed their pleasure by repeated applause and a thoroughly spontaneous "call" for the composer. It need scarcely be added that the performance was as fine as that of a new and large work could be expected to be after (probably) very little rehearsing. There is too much racket and bustle in the musical world of London to allow of a sufficiency of quiet preparation. The concert included a pleasant Violin Concerto of M. Molique, played with great firmness and finish by Mr. Carrodus—the *rondo-finale* of this is a delightfully gay bit of writing. Also the too seldom heard "Melusine" of Mendelssohn was finely played by the orchestra. These things, with songs by Mesdames Dolby and Sherrington, made up as satisfactory a concert as the Society has ever given.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

MUSIC IN PARIS.—A curiosity, in the shape of what may be called a pianoforte sextett, is to be played at a classical concert next week in the Salle Herz. A *fantasia*, composed by Chopin, Czerny, Henri Herz, Lizst, Pixis, and Thalberg, will be performed on six pianos by Herz, Ravina, and four other players. It is called the "Hexameron," and includes variations in six different styles.—A performance at the Opera for the benefit of Rameau's grandchildren has produced £440.—The Popular Concerts at the Cirque Napoléon wound up for the season on Sunday last with a performance which included Beethoven's Choral Symphony, and divers choruses of Handel, taken from "Solomon," "Joshua," and the "Messiah." Madame Viardot sang an air from "Alicia," and took a part in the symphony.

BERLIOZ's "Beatrice and Benedict" (query, "Much Ado About Nothing?") has been played with success at Weimar.

BEETHOVEN's finest Pianoforte Concerto, as it is generally considered, that in G major, No. 4, is to be played at the Crystal Palace Concert to-day. Notwithstanding its fame (Mendelssohn used to say it was the greatest of the five), this piece is so seldom played in public that its appearance in a programme is worth noting.

THE last accounts of Adelina Patti report her as rescuing from failure a miserable performance of "Don Juan" at the Carl-Theater in Vienna by the vivacity of her *Zerlina*. She was expected to gratify her devotees in Paris by one more performance in passing through Paris on her way to Covent Garden.

A CASE of peculiar distress will be made the occasion of a benefit concert on Monday evening next at the Hanover Square Rooms. Mr. John Watson, a photographer, late of Regent Street, has lately become totally blind from over exertion in his profession, and his friends are taking this means, among others, of raising a fund for his assistance under this grievous affliction.

B. B. L.

## MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

APRIL 25th to MAY 2nd.

MONDAY.—Mr. Pauer's Second Historical Pianoforte Concert, Willis's Rooms, 3 p.m.  
Popular Concert (Vieuxtemps, Mdme. Goddard, Sims Reeves), St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.  
Mr. John Watson's Benefit Concert, Hanover Square Rooms, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY.—Musical Union's Second Matinee, St. James's Hall, 3.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—Mr. Leslie's Choir (Mendelssohn's Second Psalm, Wesley's "In Exitu Israel"), Hanover Square Rooms, 8.30 p.m.  
Second New Philharmonic Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

"Creation," by the National Choral Society, Exeter Hall, 8 p.m.  
THURSDAY.—Mr. Deacon's Seance of Classical Music, 16, Grosvenor Street, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY.—Mendelssohn's "Athalia," Festival Performance at the Crystal Palace, 3 p.m.

Mdme. Goldschmidt's Concert for the Hospital for Incurables (Handel's "L'Allegro," &c.), St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

## OPERAS:—

COVENT GARDEN.—To-night, "Rigoletto;" Monday, "William Tell;" Tuesday, "Rigoletto."

HER MAJESTY'S.—To-night, "Lucia;" Tuesday, "Lucrezia."

## THE DRAMA.

### THE LONDON THEATRES.

THE public still exhibits disinclination to fill the benches of the London theatres, and managers are beginning to be hopeless of recovering their lost way. Easter is generally a most hazardous season of the theatrical year, success, or the reverse, depending greatly on the state of the weather—a very fine Easter being the manager's *bête noire*. This year, other causes besides fine weather have been at work to disappoint his hopes—the sluggishness of trade, and something perhaps of public exhaustion, consequent on the recent excitements about the royal marriage. At one or two theatres a change of bill indicates the manager's anxiety to turn the tide of patronage. Mr. Boucicault, once more, falls back upon his "Colleen Bawn," his best and most successful piece. Mr. Horace Wigan's clever *French* farce of "Taming the Truant," at the Olympic, is to give place to a new comic drama by Mr. Tom Taylor; and at the Strand Theatre, also, novelties are, we believe, in hand. At the minor theatres change has been incessant. New dramas have disappeared from the bills almost before the paste employed in placarding them was dry—the most notable disappearance being that of "Jessie Ashton, or London by Day and Night," from the *affiches* of the Surrey, after a run of six nights. Perhaps the most striking success that has been achieved this Easter is that of a spectral drama at the Britannia Theatre. In this piece Professor Pepper's recent discovery in optics is brought into use upon the stage with truly terrific effect. Ghost-dramas have always been in favour with one class of theatre-goers, and it is no wonder that they crowd to the Britannia on the promise of being shown a "real" spectre. Perfect faith is kept, and the result is, that the breathless audience finds Professor Pepper's "Ghost" almost too real—they see the villain of the piece pass his sword through and through the body of the spectre, and feel their hair rise as they observe the shadow's lips move, and hear its ghastly laugh; and honest terror robs their applause of not a little of its hearty ring. They know that they are looking upon an optical illusion; but it is so fearfully like reality that, for a while, reason is over-mastered. They have in "The Widow and Orphans, or Faith, Hope, and Charity," a "sensation" drama before which all other pieces of its class must pale their "ineffectual fires." It is reported that M. Fechter has bought the patent right to use Professor Pepper's invention; and, if that report is true, we may expect to see spectral drama made fashionable next winter. Perhaps the first great results attained will be the production of entirely new ghosts of *Banquo* and of "Hamlet the Dane," as unsubstantial as the spectres that stalked or rose in the mind's eye of the marvellous dramatist.

We are reminded by the mention of Shakspeare that, early in May, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean are to appear at the Princess's in a round of Shakspearian characters—their engagement extending over a period of eleven nights, after which they are to visit Australia. "Hamlet" is to be the first piece in which they are to appear.

The engagement of Miss Louisa Angel at the Haymarket has proved satisfactory to the public. Her performance of *Beatrice*, though far from brilliant, was such as to warrant a hope that an actress of real power had been introduced to the London stage. As *Miss Hardecastle*, in "She Stoops to Conquer," she heightened the good impression made by her first appearance, and it has since been confirmed by her acting of the part of *Mrs. Mildmay*, in "Still Waters Run Deep." The success of Goldsmith's comedy, indeed, consequent upon the good acting it received last week, might have served for a continued attraction at the Haymarket. It is many years since we saw this charming work more capitally rendered. The

# THE READER.

25 APRIL, 1863.

*Tony Lumpkin* of Mr. Buckstone has long been famous, and has lost nothing of the life and humour of five-and-twenty years ago. It is a masterpiece of acting, never equalled by himself in any other part. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan, however, having been announced to appear on Monday evening, Goldsmith had to give place to Mr. Tom Taylor. The great favour with which the public have for years received "Still Waters Run Deep" is attributable in great part to the exquisitely natural and refined acting of Mr. Alfred Wigan as the undemonstrative *John Mildmay*, and of Mrs. Wigan as *Mrs. Sternhold*. As a picture of English life and manners, this highly attractive drama is very far from true; it is, however, capitally written; at every turn the plot increases in interest, and the audience are not permitted to lapse for a moment into leisurely criticism. We are glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan are likely to remain at the Haymarket for a considerable time; indeed, we have heard it reported that there is a possibility of their becoming lessees of the theatre, *vice* Mr. Buckstone, retiring upon a fortune made for the most part out of "Our American Cousin." At all events, we are promised during the engagement a new comedy, by Lady Dufferin—the piece that was announced at the St. James's some two years ago, when the theatre was for a short season under the management of Mr. Alfred Wigan. In addition to this, we are to have a new comedy by Mr. Leicester Buckingham, whose highly successful little piece, "A Merry Widow," was set aside, in the midst of its career, to make room for "Lady Audley's Secret" at the St. James's. Pending the production of these novelties, we may report that the Panorama of the Prince of Wales's Tour in the East increases in attraction, and well deserves the applause bestowed upon it. The thirteen pictures of which it is composed exhibit some of the most striking scenes in Turkey and the Holy Land; and all have been painted with consummate skill. Many of the effects produced are surprisingly beautiful and true to nature. The view of Jerusalem is highly impressive—the parched landscape surrounding the city wonderfully conveying a sense of grandeur and mystery. This view is followed by, and contrasted with, a view of the Ford of the Jordan, full of admirably painted light, the water exquisitely limpid and transparent. The Dead Sea, with its skeleton-strewn shore, is presented with terrible vividness under the ghostly light of pale moonbeams, bathing the distant and unseen Wilderness of Judea. It is a relief to get to the bright picture of Nazareth, which immediately follows it, and to the succeeding picture of the Sea of Galilee, the aerial perspective of which is truly admirable. In the picture of the interior of a gentleman's house at Damascus the artists have most successfully rendered a difficult compound effect of red lamp-light and moonlight. Beyrout and Constantinople are both set before us with masterly power of painting, the latter picture especially. The whole series concludes with a view of St. George's Chapel during the ceremony of the royal marriage. The exhibition of the pictures is accompanied by the effective performance of selections from David's "Desert" and other music of an appropriate character.

Certain changes of management are spoken of as likely to occur shortly in some of our leading theatres. Mr. George Vining, recently announced as the partner of Mr. Lindus, is said to be about to take the sole responsibility of managing the Princess's; and Captain Horton Rhys is reported to have made arrangements for opening the Olympic at Whitsuntide, for a short season, during the absence of Mr. Robson in the country. By the death of Mr. James Rogers burlesque drama has sustained a great loss. His conceptions of the female characters which he sustained in the burlesques of "The Lady of Lyons," "The Miller and his Men," "Aladdin, or the Wonderful Scamp," "Miss Eiley O'Connor," and "Ivanhoe," were strikingly distinct and original. His "make up" for these parts was truly artistic; in the case of the *Widow Melnotte* it was little short of perfection. He brought a large amount of shrewd observation of actual life to bear upon all his burlesque impersonations. In the more legitimate walks of the drama, we remember many years ago to have been struck by his acting of a semi-tragic part in an English version of George Sand's "Claudie," which was played at the Strand Theatre. More recently he achieved a great success as *Joe Spurr* in the pretty touching drama of the "Old Post Boy;" and in a farce entitled "Off and On" he showed admirable comic power.

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